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NEW SOUTH RIVER BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES

1924 - 1999

"It is impossible to improve the future without a knowledge of the past."[1]

"A group which does not know itself and what it has been lacks power to climb beyond its present level."[2]

"History doesn't stop, it doesn't hesitate. We may quit, we may neglect, we may bungle our job—but history goes on. If we sit down by the rivers of triumph and rejoice over what we have done, we will soon stop doing."[3]

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[1] Author unknown
[2] Author unknown
[3] Mr. John Oates Historian NSRBA 1947 - NSRBA minutes book pg. 16

Table of Contents

Title Page.....1

Acknowledgements.....3

Table of Contents.....2

Chapter I - 1924-1933.....11

Chapter II - 1934-1943.....21

Chapter III - 1944-1953.....25

Chapter IV - 1954-1963.....36

Chapter V - 1964-1973.....46

Chapter VI - 1974-1983.....51

Chapter VII - 1984-1993.....64

Chapter VIII - 1994-1998.....80

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Acknowledgements

The assignment to write a history of The New South River Baptist Association was a task of considerable challenge and pleasure. This history is based on information from different sources, but primarily from the minute books at The New South River Baptist Association office, unless otherwise stated by footnotes.

Taking note of the fact that anniversaries have a way of accumulating rather hurriedly. New South River Baptist Association was 75 years old March 24, 1999. Baptist have been in North Carolina since 1695 this was before the first town was incorporated. The first Baptist Association in America was in 1707, and there were several associations that led up to the forming of The New South River Baptist Association in 1924.

When I accepted the position as historian of the association in 1997, I had no idea that I would be faced with such an important task. Without the following people I could not have completed this history. I would like to thank the following:

New South River Baptist Association Staff
Mr. James I. Murphy – Baptist Hospital- former historian for NSRBA
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Elizabeth Loftis – Lake Lynn Baptist Church
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Rev. Clyde L. Davis-Associational Missionary-July 1957-Aug. 31,1959
Mrs. Bob Banner-Newland, N.C.
Mr. Lyman Speight
Rev. E. C. Watson – Associational Missionary – 1959-Feb. 1963

"The church must serve the changing needs of the people in a changing world. At the same time the church will stand for the unchang-

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ing principles of Christianity, exemplifying the importance of replacing Selfishness with Love, Charity and Service to others". (This was a quote from Governor Luther Hodges of North Carolina in 1955 when he attended the annual session at Mingo Baptist Church). Truly you will see that New South River Baptist Association has changed in this changing world over the years.

May God bless the reader and hearer of this history.

Thank you,

Willa Dean Bullard
Historian-New South River Baptist Association

Date and Place of first Baptist Association in England unknown

1660
First Settlement (Albemarle Sound on Chowan River)

1695
Baptists moved to North Carolina.

1705
First Town (Bath) Incorporated

1707
First Baptist Association in America organized in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1751
Second Baptist Association in America organized in Charleston, South Carolina.

1758
The Sandy Creek Baptist Association in North Carolina organized.

1765
Associations began to multiply.

1769
Kehukee Association formed. (Eastern NC from Southeastern VA to the SC line)

1794
Neuse Association formed from Southeastern Churches that separated from Kehukee Association.

1805
Cape Fear Baptist Association formed from churches from Jacksonville to the SC line.

1827
Goshen Association formed from some of the churches out of the Cape Fear Association.

1858
Cedar Creek Association formed from churches out of Cumberland, Robeson, and Sampson Counties.

1877
South River Association formed from nine churches out of Cedar Creek Association and Eastern Association.

1908
Cedar Creek Association changed its name to Cumberland Association.

***** 1924 *****
New South River Baptist Association
formed from South River and Cumberland Associations.

The growth of Baptists in North Carolina is a story of men and women who dare mighty things. Colonists from Virginia established the first permanent English settlement in North Carolina about 1660 near the Albemarle Sound on the Chowan River. There have been Baptists in North Carolina since 1695. The first town, Bath was incorporated in 1705.

A Baptist Association is a self-determining body whose authority is derived from the action of the Messengers elected by the churches. Most times located in a limited geographical area, these churches have voluntarily associated and have established organizations for Christian fellowship and cooperation in advancing Christ's Kingdom. An association is dependent on the churches that created and sustain it, and is autonomous in relation to other Baptist bodies. The pattern of Associational Missions is founded on the New Testament. Early church activity set the precedent that may be followed by present-day and future-day associations as they carry out their functions of service to the churches. The date and place of the organization of the first Baptist Association in England is unknown. There have been Baptists in North Carolina since 1695. In 1707, the first Baptist Association in America was formed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There were few Baptists among the first settlers who came into Albemarle from Virginia. There were no organized Baptist congregations until 1727, when the Chowan Church in Chowan County was founded. In 1751, the second Association in America was organized in Charleston, South Carolina. Baptist Ministers preached and taught throughout many sections of North Carolina until 1752 when 16 congregations had been established and claimed several hundred members. In 1758, the Sandy Creek Association in North Carolina was organized.[4]

In 1765 Associations began to multiply. Baptist out numbered all denominations in North Carolina. In 1769 The Kehukee Association, which included Eastern NorthCarolina from Southeastern Virginia to the South Carolina line, was formed. In 1794 the Baptist Churches of Southeastern North Carolina separated themselves from the Kehukee

[4]NSRBA minute book

Association and formed the Neuse Association. Eleven years later (1805) churches from Jacksonville to the South Carolina line as far West as Robeson County removed themselves from the Neuse Baptist Association to form the Cape Fear Baptist Association. Twenty-two years later (1827) some of the churches of the Cape Fear Baptist Association formed the Goshen Baptist Association. In 1858 Churches from Cumberland County, Sampson County and Robeson County separated from the remaining churches in the Cape Fear Association to form the Cedar Creek Baptist Association. In 1877, nine churches from the Cedar Creek Baptist Association and one from the Eastern Association met at Baptist Chapel Baptist Church on November 30, December 1, and December 2 to form a new Association, the South River Baptist Association. They were:

Salem Baptist Church	Brown's Chapel	Piney Green	White Oak
Baptist Chapel	Mt. Elam	Concord	
Spring Branch	Long Branch	Lilly's Grove[5]	

November 14, 15, 16, 1878, the second annual session of the South River Baptist Association was held with Piney Green Baptist Church. At this meeting the following churches were received: Pleasant Union Baptist Church presented a letter of dismission from the Cedar Creek Association and a letter asking to be accepted in the South River Baptist Association; Ebenezer Baptist Church from the Eastern Baptist Association presented a letter of dismission and was received in the South River Baptist Association; Union Grove Baptist Church (newly constituted) was received; Magnolia Baptist Church presented a letter of dismission from the Cedar Creek Association and was received; Olivers Grove Baptist Church (newly constituted) presented a letter and was received. In 1908 the Cedar Creek Association changed its name to the Cumberland Baptist Association.

In 1923 times were very difficult, and means of transportation left a lot to be desired, streets in the city were narrow and unkept, and the rural roads were in need of repair (paving); the dress code was very modest and

[5]James I. Murphy - Historian NSRBA

strictly followed by practically everyone. Church, school, and to the neighbors house were the main places to go, except when time came for the annual session for the association.

There were two associations serving the churches in the Fayetteville area. The Cumberland Baptist Association with 28 churches:

Beaver Dam	Lebanon
Bladen Union	Magnolia
Cape Fear	Macedonia
Carroll Memorial	Mount Gilead
Cedar Creek	Mount Pisgah
Cedar Falls	Peter's Creek
Cumberland Union	Pleasant Grove
Evergreen	Rock Fish
Fayetteville First	Sharon
Fayetteville Massey Hill	Shiloh
Fayetteville Person Street	Stedman
Green Springs	Suggs Grove
Hope Mills	Tabernacle
Judson	Union Springs

The South River Baptist Association with 27 churches:

Antioch	Corinth	Mintz	Union Grove
Autryville	Elizabeth	Mingo	White Oak
Baptist Chapel	Godwin	Mt. Elam	Piney Green
Brown's	Hickory Grove	Mt. Vernon	Mary's Chapel
Beulah	Harmony	Roseboro	Pleasant Union
Clement	Long Branch	Center	Salemburg
Concord	Mill Creek	Spring Branch	

Wednesday morning, October 24, 1923, according to invitation and appointment, the South River Baptist Association met with Roseboro Baptist Church for the forty-seventh annual communication. Dr. Charles E. Brewer, President of Meredith College, gave an address on Christian Education. This was at the 11:00 introductory sermon time, Brother E.N. Johnson, scheduled to preach, could not preach due to sickness in his family.

A committee from the South River Baptist Association was

appointed to meet with a committee from the Cumberland Baptist Association for the purpose of uniting the two associations. The purpose of uniting the two associations was due to the distance of traveling and the means of which to travel. The committee members were: Rev. G. A. Bain, Rev. W. J. Jones, S. A. Howard, A.E. Alderman and J. O. Tew.

A report from the Executive Committee of South River Baptist Association:

Brethren: As clerk of the committee appointed by the Cumberland and the South River Baptist Associations, I respectfully submit a report of the proceedings of our joint meeting, and ask that you call a special meeting of the association on the next fifth Sunday meeting as suggested below:

The committee from the two associations met at Roseboro Baptist Church on the evening of October 24, 1923.

The delegates for Cumberland were introduced. F. A. Marsh, E.E. Jones, G. S. Turner, J.C Beard, and J. A. Oates represented Cumberland.[6] Two of the Cumberland delegates were unavoidably absent.

G. A. Bain, W. J. Jones, A. E. Alderman S.A. Howard, J. O. Tew represented South River.

Brother Bain was elected chairman: Bro. Turner was elected clerk. A motion that the two associations unite was carried unanimously. The clerk was instructed to prepare a tentative constitution from the constitutions of the two associations, and to be presented for action to the first joint meeting of the two associations. The clerk was instructed to ask the executive committees of the two associations to call a meeting of their respective associations on Saturday before the fifth Sunday for the purpose of granting letters to the churches to the new association, and the purpose of attending to any other business that may arise. It was decided on motion that the Saturday before the second fifth Sunday a meeting (the first of the new association) be held and churches presenting letters be

[6]Cumberland Baptist Assoc. 15th annual minutes pg. 13

received into its membership and organization be effected, a constitution adopted, and such other matters as may be necessary attended to. On motion it was decided to recommend that the name South River be retained if this will give satisfaction to all the churches concerned, but the committee wished to state that it does not want this name unless it is the pleasure of the brethren. The reason that this name, South River, is suggested is because the South River is the dividing line between the two associations. On motion it was decided to have this meeting at Autryville Baptist Church, because Autryville was most centrally located.

CHAPTER I

Some 155 years have passed from the formation of the first association in Eastern North Carolina up to the birth of the New South River Baptist Association. The New South River Baptist Association was and is characterized by evangelistic zeal, missionary concerns, and a cooperative desire to work with fellow Christians in furthering the work of the Kingdom of God. These characteristics did not burst full bloom onto the stage of the association's history, but were painstakingly cultivated through the committed lives of those men and women who shaped the history of Baptists in Southwestern North Carolina. On March 24, 1924 delegates from the various churches composing the Cumberland and the South River Baptist Associations met at Autryville for the purpose of uniting the two associations. The time came for discussing the name of the new association; there was much "arguing" and discussion over this matter. A little 13 year old girl, Evelyn Bullock, was with her father at this meeting, Mr. Buckner Bullock, a deacon at Autryville Baptist Church. Mr. Bullock was a very quiet and reserved person. He would never have spoken out at any meeting much less the annual association meeting. There was "arguing" back and forth about the name. The time came for the meeting to adjourn for "lunch on the grounds". The discussion continued with a group of preachers outside and Mr. Bullock was at the table where the discussion was taking place. Mr. Bullock suggested that the name be the "New South River Baptist Association". Time came for the afternoon session to begin; the moderator opened the meeting. Brother J.A. Oates of Fayetteville made the motion the association name be "The South River Baptist Association". After talking outside with Mr. Bullock, Rev. Joel S. Johnson, Cedar Creek, made the motion the name be " The New South River Baptist Association". The name of the two consolidated associations is "The New South River Baptist Association." There was a concern of a debt owed by the "Old South River Baptist Association" for minutes of the previous year and that Cumberland Association owed a small sum also. On motion it was ordered that at each "Union Meeting" an offering for the expense fund be taken and that this be divided between the "Old Associations" until that debt be removed. The Union Meetings were meetings that were small groups of churches in an area that usually held meetings monthly. The committee on executive board recommended the re-election of the "Old Executive Board". The committee on messengers to

the Southern Baptist Convention recommended Rev. J.S. Snyder as delegate, and Rev. W. J. Jones as alternate. Committee on messengers to the Baptist State Convention recommended that Mrs. J. Abner Barker, M. Lee, and A. B. Smith be appointed as messengers to the Baptist State Convention. The Committee on preacher recommended that the introductory sermon for the associational meeting in 1925 be Dr. T. H. King. On motion these recommendations were adopted. It was decided on motion that the annual meeting be held on Wednesday after the second Sunday in October and that it continue through Thursday and Friday. On motion Autryville Baptist Church was decided for the permanent meeting place and that the delegates bring lunch with them.

W.J. Jones - Salemburg - was elected Moderator

G. Scott Turner - Fayetteville - was elected Clerk

J.R. Thaggard - Cedar Creek - was elected Treasurer of this new association.

List of Charter Churches in "The New South River Baptist Association" as follows:

Antioch Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Autryville Baptist Church - Sampson County
Baptist Chapel Baptist Church - Sampson County
Beaver Dam Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Browns Baptist Church – Sampson County
Cape Fear Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Carroll Memorial Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Cedar Creek Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Cedar Falls Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Center Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Clement Baptist Church - Sampson County
Concord Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Corinth Baptist Church - Sampson County
Cumberland Union Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Elizabeth Baptist Church - Sampson County
Evergreen Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Fayetteville First Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Fayetteville Massey Hill Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Fayetteville Person Street Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Godwin Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Harmony Baptist Church - Sampson County
Hickory Grove Baptist Church - Sampson County
Judson Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Lebanon Baptist Church - Cumberland County

Long Branch Baptist Church - Sampson County
Macedonia Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Magnolia Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Mary's Chapel Baptist Church - Sampson County
Mill Creek Baptist Church - Sampson County
Mintz Baptist Church - Sampson County
Mingo Baptist Church - Sampson County
Mount Elam Baptist Church - Sampson County
Mount Gilead Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Mount Pisgah Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Mount Vernon Baptist Church - Robeson County
Parkersburg Baptist Church - Sampson County
Peters Creek Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Piney Green Baptist Church - Sampson County
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Pleasant Union Baptist Church - Sampson County
Roseboro Baptist Church - Sampson County
Salemburg Baptist Church - Sampson County
Shiloh Baptist Church - Sampson County
Spring Branch Baptist Church - Sampson County
Stedman Baptist Church - Cumberland County
Suggs Grove Baptist Church - Bladen County
Tabernacle Baptist Church - Hoke County
Union Grove Baptist Church - Sampson County
White Oak Baptist Church - Sampson County
Sharon Baptist Church - Cumberland County

CONSTITUTION

1. That this Association shall be denominated and known as the New South River Baptist Association.

2. The object of this Association shall be the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among men, and the means of accomplishing this shall be in strict conformity with the New Testament.

3. The Association shall be composed of delegates, chosen by the churches connected with it, each church being entitled to three delegates, and ordained ministers having care of churches in the association, and members of the Executive Board, and ordained ministers having their membership in churches belonging to the Association and living within the bounds thereof.

4. The delegates from each church shall bear a letter certifying their appointment and giving an account of the condition of the church and a statement of all funds contributed to benevolent purposes during the year.

5. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, a Clerk, and a Treasurer, who shall be annually chosen by ballot from among the members of the churches composing the Association, by a majority of the members voting and shall continue in office until their successors are appointed.

6. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside during the deliberations of the body, to enforce the observance of the constitution, preserve the decorum, appoint committees, decide all questions of order give his opinion on any question under consideration, after others are done speaking, and give the casting vote in case of a tie.

7. It shall be the duty of the clerk to record the proceedings of each annual meeting; superintend the printing of the minutes, and their distribution among the churches.

8. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive all the funds sent up by the churches or collected during the session of this body, and disburse the same for the objects stated. He shall make an annual report of the condition of the treasury.

9. The Association shall appoint an Executive Board of seven members who shall have the superintendence of Associations missions and such other objects as shall be entrusted to them. They shall have power to disburse all funds paid to them by the treasurer of the Association for those objects under their charge, and to collect and disburse funds for these objects during the intervals between meetings of this body. The members of this Board shall be answerable to the Association for their acts and shall make an annual report to the Association of their doings.

10. Any church desiring to become a member of this Association shall present her petition at the Annual meeting of the body through delegates appointed for that purpose, and if the Association shall consent to receive such church the

Moderator shall extend the right hand of fellowship to the delegates.

11. The Association shall not maintain fellowship with any church that neglects to preserve Gospel order, but shall not entertain any charge brought against a church, unless it is brought through a church.

12. The Association may invite visiting brethren to seats, and extend to them all the privileges of regular delegates except that of voting.

13. The Annual Session shall commence on Wednesday after the second Sunday in October and shall continue through Thursday and Friday.

14. By appointment there shall be preached, at each annual session an introductory and a missionary sermon or an address on missionary work.

15. This constitution may be amended, at any annual session, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided that notice be given, the day previous, that such motion will be presented.

1802
First Woman's Missionary Society
(WMU)
Boston, Massachusetts

1805
First Woman's Missionary Society
in North Carolina

1884
First WMU of Southern Baptist
Convention organized in Richmond

***** 1924 *****

NEW SOUTH RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

First WMU Meeting was October 2, 1924

Some of the pastors had as many as three or four churches at one time, they would have "Preaching" only once a month. There is an indication in the minutes that forty-eight of the churches had a Sunday School.

Some things may have changed drastically, but some never change. In 1924, there was a concern that some attended Sunday School and go home before the Preaching service. "The Modern Singing Class" got a lot of the credit for this. It was stated that the songs used in these classes were too often of a "cheap and jazzy" type and served no useful purpose in the mental or moral uplift of the singers or hearers. Often these classes met for an all day singing on Sunday, therefore this interfered with the Sunday - School and Preaching at church. At the second annual association meeting at Autryville the motion was made "that this association discourage the attendance of singing contest on Sunday." The churches were encouraged to train their choirs to meet the spiritual needs of their own church.

In Salemburg, a private school for girls, Pineland College, conducted by Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Jones, was an active agent in promoting the work of Christ in the community and association. In the 1924 minutes book, the following resolution concerning Pineland School was printed.

> "Whereas, there is within the bounds of this Association a Private School conducted by a Baptist Minister and his wife, which has been and is a very active agent in promoting the Kingdom of Christ in this Community and where-ever the girls from this School have gone, and the Baptist Churches of this association have and shall reap great good from the work of this school. The churches are encouraged to patronize the school, and after the churches had completed their pledge to the 75 Million Campaign that some plan be worked out to help support the school." The Cooperative Program developed from the 75 Million Campaign.

In 1802 the first Woman's Missionary Society (WMS) was in Boston, Mass., which sent missionaries in all parts of the United States and Canada. The first WMS in N. C. was in 1805. The first Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of the Southern Baptist Convention was organized in Richmond in 1884. The first WMU meeting in New South River Baptist Association was Oct.2, 1924 at Autryville Baptist Church. Each church was asked to contribute $3.00 each year to support the association. The meeting was opened with short talks by Mrs. C. S. Royal, superintendent of the South River Association and Mrs. D. C. Rogers, superintendent of the

Cumberland Association. These associational superintendents appointed the nominating committee, three from Cumberland Association and two from South River Association. Miss Mary Jessup, Mrs. J. S. Snyder, Mrs. W. J. Jones, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Cooper were nominated; it is not completely clear the association from which each belong. The program was given by the sunbeams from Macedonia Baptist Church. Mrs. G. T. Rackley, the new superintendent of The New South River Baptist Association, made this comment at the end of her report: " Indeed it was a happy meeting, the two associations consolidating and making a stronger union". The Charter Members of WMU in 1924 were:

Beaver Dam	Green Springs	Salemburg
Bladen Union	Hickory Grove	Sharon
Cedar Creek	Hope Mills	Spring Branch
Cape Fear	Lebanon	Stedman
Corinth	Macedonia	Tabernacle
Cumberland Union	Mingo	Union Springs
Fayetteville First	Pleasant Grove	Peters Creek
Fayetteville Massey Hill	Rockfish	White Oak
Fayetteville Person Street	Roseboro	

There were 4 Young Women Auxiliary (YWA) listed as charter members in 1924:

Cedar Creek Fayetteville First Salemburg Spring Branch

Also the GA's were Cape Fear and Fayetteville First and RA's were Fayetteville First and Salemburg. Listed for sunbeams in 1924 were:

Roseboro	Cumberland Union	Stedman
Salemburg	Macedonia	Evergreen
Spring Branch	Massey Hill	Person Street
White Oak	Fayetteville First	Union Springs
Cape Fear	Sharon	Bladen Union
Cedar Creek	Rockfish	

The women of the South were the first missionaries to the "colored people".

October 14, 1925 the matter of the debts owed by South River and Cumberland Associations was brought up. A collection was taken at this meeting to help pay this debt. This motion was made "that the executive board apportion the churches an amount they should pay to the expense

fund, which was for two associations, and that the clerk notify the churches of this amount". This motion was adopted. On motion each church is to be asked to contribute a minimum of $3.00 each year to the support of the association. Motion by J.R. Thaggard, seconded by G. S. Turner, the association voted for the 13th Article of the Constitution be changed to read: " The Annual Session shall commence on Wednesday after the Second Sunday in October and shall continue through Thursday". A notice was given by Mrs. W. J. Jones that a motion would be offered to change the number of delegates from 3 to 4 per church. Mr. W. J. Jones was moderator, G. Scott Turner was clerk, and J. R. Thaggard was treasurer of the New South River Baptist Association in 1925.

In 1926 Mt. Vernon Baptist Church requested in their letter to the association that they be granted a letter of dismissal that they might unite with the Eastern Association on motion this letter was granted.

October 12 & 13, 1927 the 4th annual meeting was held at Cedar Creek Baptist Church. There were 15 B. Y. P. U. in our Association. The B.Y.P.U. is a training school for young Christians, and its method of training is by doing. It trains the members to take part in every line of Christian endeavor. The fourth annual WMU meeting was held Sept. 15, 1927 with Cedar Creek Baptist Church. There were 49 churches listed in the association at that time.

In 1928 the 5th annual session was held at Mt. Elam Baptist Church. Wade Baptist Church asked for admission and was accepted to the membership of New South River Baptist Association. The moderator extended Brother J. L. Olive the right hand of fellowship on behalf of the church.

Report of orphanage: on November 11, 1885 the first child was received. There were 500 children at Thomasville and 116 at Kennedy Memorial Home, in 1928. In the 42 years of existence counting Mothers' Aid, 3,266 children have been helped. The Sunday School and Thanksgiving Offering each year carries on the orphanage work in North Carolina.

October 16 & 17, 1929 the 6th annual session was held at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church. Brother D. M. Williford was clerk of the association and Brother Fred Simpson was treasurer and Dr. Joel S. Snyder was moderator. Brother A. A. Edge, delegate from Suggs Grove Church, presented a letter and asked for a letter of dismission for their church from this association to unite with the Bladen Association. On motion the letter was granted and

the clerk was ordered to prepare a send letter.

October 15 & 16, 1930 the 7th annual session was held at Cape Fear Baptist Church. Brother Reddin Honeycutt, the oldest minister in the association, was asked to stand and say a few words.

The 8th annual session was held on October 14, 1931 at Spring Branch Baptist Church. The annual meeting of the WMU met at Magnolia Baptist Church July 22, 1931. Mr. & Mrs. L. B. Olive - returned missionary from China, addressed missionary life in China. Rev. L. B. Olive had prayer. There were 18 churches represented at this meeting:

Cape Fear	Cumberland Union	Cedar Creek	Fayetteville First
Massey Hill	Lebanon	Pleasant Grove	Roseboro
Macedonia	Stedman	Salemburg	Spring Branch
Wade	Tabernacle	Magnolia	Mingo
Mt. Elam	Sharon		

October 12 & 13, 1932 the 9th annual session was held at Salemburg Baptist Church. October 13, Thursday afternoon the music was presented by students from Pineland College and the congregation. Brother's Tripp and Chamblee of Campbell College presented special music. Dr. L. E. M. Freeman of Meredith College was recognized and spoke briefly of the value of Christian Education. The Union Meeting was asked not to meet this month on account of the associational meeting, but to meet three months from then.

All the churches reported having Sunday School. April 19, 1932 the WMU held its annual meeting with the First Baptist Church Fayetteville.

In 1933 the 10th annual session was held at Roseboro Baptist Church October 11 & 12. Brethren from Meredith College, Campbell College, Pineland College and Wake Forest College were recognized and discussed our Christian Education work. April 10th 1933 the annual meeting of the WMU was held at Spring Branch Baptist Church. There were 105 representatives of the various societies present. It was later decided that committees should be chosen with a leader in each District instead of Association-wide Chairman as before. The District leaders for the Association WMU were:

Fayetteville Group - Mrs. D. C. Graham Spring Branch Group – Mrs. D. L. Jackson
Stedman Group - Mrs. D. M. Clemmons Roseboro Group – Mrs. J. Abner Barker
Salemburg Group - Mrs. Marshall Baggett

CHAPTER - II

Sharon Baptist Church was the host church for the 11th Annual Session on October 17 & 18, 1934. The 48 Churches in the association had a combined total of approximately 6,250 people enrolled in Sunday School. The Annual WMU Meeting was held with Salemburg Baptist Church April 11, 1934, Maude Melvin had the special music. This is an extract from a letter by Mrs. C.S. Royal of Salemburg to Mrs. R. P. Harris dated March 25, 1934. "Until 1924, 10 years ago, what is now the New South River Baptist Association was divided into two Associations - the South River and the Cumberland Associations. Mrs. S. A. Howard, deceased, and I were the only Superintendents of the South River Association. When the South River and the Cumberland united Mrs. D. C. Rogers of Fayetteville was Superintendent of the Cumberland; she took over the work of both the remainder of the year. She was followed by Mrs. J. Abner Barker of Roseboro. Then Mrs. J. M. Kimbrough (whose husband was pastor of Massey Hill Church, Fayetteville) - Mrs. J.L. Olive of Wade, and Miss Lucille Martin of Fayetteville. I cannot tell you who were the Superintendents of the Cumberland before Mrs. Rogers". Signed by Mrs. C. S. Royal.

October 17, 1935, the 12th annual session was held at Piney Green Baptist Church. A report on Christian Education was a very detailed and enriching one. Some good information was found in the minute book concerning "education without Christ and Christian Education". One-half century ago or more, the American people were saying, "Educate a boy or girl and he will stop his meanness." This was exactly what Pineland College was doing with "education" and "Christian Education." "Education is the largest word in the vocabulary of life, because it symbolizes all the forces that have raised man from the plane of the brute." A Christian Education - teaching of the love of Christ and the love for the Bible; to understand the purpose of the coming of Jesus Christ, and to know that that purpose is to save sinners from sin, for the Bible says, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

The WMU of the New South River Baptist Association was very supportive of the "Recorder." The Union voted to challenge all fifty churches in the Association to subscribe to the Biblical Recorder. The Union Meetings were small groups of churches in an area that met between the time of the last Annual Session and before the next one.

Union Springs Baptist Church was recorded in the list of churches in the statistics of the minute book as a member of the New South River Baptist Association in 1935. There is no mention of the Association they were a member of previously.

October 14 & 15, 1936 the 13th annual session was held at Center Baptist Church. The Annual WMU Meeting was held with Cedar Creek Baptist Church April 16, 1936. A collection of $8.15 was received for helping defray traveling expenses for visiting speakers.

In 1937, the report of a committee to consider petition of Pittman Grove Baptist Church was presented for admission to the association. Report favored the admission and Pittman Grove was officially a member of the New South River Baptist Association.

The 15th annual session was held at Cape Fear Baptist Church October 12 & 13 1938. A motion was made that the New South River Baptist Association commit to the plan of having an Associational Representative of the Biblical Recorder. The motion was made and carried that A.J. Harris be elected the representative. The moderator, Joel S. Snyder, appointed the clerk to report the session of the association to the Biblical Recorder for publication. For the WMU, 14 churches were represented at the meeting April 12, 1938 with White Oak Baptist Church. Two of the Older WMU Workers were given special recognition- Mrs. Kate Butler, Roseboro, and Mrs. Katie Breece of Stedman. The moderator, in 1938, appointed "all pastors" of the association as members of the Evangelism Committee. This was approximately 22 pastors, although there were 50 churches. As stated before, some churches had no pastor and some pastors had 2 or 3 churches, one pastor had 4 churches.

The churches were encouraged to send their letters to the association at least one week before the meeting was scheduled for the association. "The Letter" included all the information for the minute books and etc. " The clerk of the association was instructed to make copies of the letters that were late, too late to be recorded in the minutes book, to give to the association when it convenes or to have the report put on a chart and hung on the wall where all can see it during the sessions of the association."[7]

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[7]NSRBA 1938 minute book pg. 29

On Thursday Afternoon, October 11 & 12, 1939, the 16th annual session was held at Baptist Chapel Baptist Church. There were 47 churches represented either by letter or by person. Keep in mind that there were only 50 churches in the association at this time. This was a very good record.

The 17th annual session was held at Salemburg Baptist Church Oct. 16 & 17, 1940. The moderator for the association was to preside at the Union meetings also. Remember the Union meetings were meetings that were held at area churches between associational annual meetings. This motion was voted on and carried in the 1940 annual session. Powell Tabernacle of Fayetteville was accepted in the association at this time.

The 18th annual session was held at Roseboro Baptist Church October 15 & 16, 1941. A committee was appointed to make recommendations to the association relative to amending the constitution as to combine the offices of the clerk and treasurer. There were 50 of the 51 churches in the association represented at this meeting. There were 6 full graded schools in the association at this time.

It is always the duty of the church and Christians to minister to people wherever they may be found. In 1941 there were hundreds of young men away from their homes and were at Fort Bragg and the churches provided different ministries for them. Listed are some ways New South River Baptist Association did that:

> Spiritual Ministry, Recreational Ministry, Social Ministry, Ministry of Information and Contact, and a Ministry of giving. A place was purchased, tents bought and erected, preaching services provided, Sunday School, worship and mid-week prayer meetings, in reality it was a Christian Center, Health Center, Red Cross work, Kindergarten, Boy Scouts, and much much more.

The 19th annual session was held at Mt. Elam Baptist Church Oct. 15, 1942. Mr. John Oates gave a report on Social Service and Temperance. He strongly recommended that "to you absolute abstinence is the only safe course to pursue. Liquor, beer and wine are all dangerous, because they all produce drunkenness". A motion was passed that the association go on record and send petition to the President of the United States urging repeal of the Liquor Traffic.

"A petition was sent to the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, urging repeal of the Liquor Traffic" in 1942. The people of the churches were urged not to use these intoxicants, not to make and not

to sell, and not to have any part in this business.

Immanuel Baptist Church, in the vicinity of Fort Bragg, was received into the fellowship of the association. The association purchased a lot in North Fayetteville in the development known as Windsor Terrace for $1500.00. There was every indication that the War Department, in the near future, would release materials as needed for the construction of a church building.

There was a need for an ordination committee, so the executive committee named a committee to serve, and the churches were asked to refer all candidates for the ministry to this committee for investigation and recommendation. This committee consisted of W. Perry Crouch, W. D. Early and G. N. Ashley. This was the first ordination committee of the New South River Baptist Association. Also at this time it was suggested that the pastors' conference be held a least once a quarter. A motion was made and carried that the moderator and executive Committee be empowered with the authority to name dates of associational meeting for the duration. The association voted to go back to the two-day meetings and the days be on Wednesday and Thursday after the second Sunday in October. These meetings were to be held in different areas of the association. The churches of the association were asked to close their year out as of September 30th, this was also the closing date of the association. The association also voted to have a regular historian as of 1944, and he be asked to bring a report to the meeting. Bro. John A. Oates was appointed historian for the association.

October 14, 1943 the 20th annual session was held at Immanuel Baptist Church. A motion was made to have a two-day session in 1944. A committee on application for membership - in consideration of the proper organization of Immauel Baptist Church, in the vicinity of Fort Bragg - recommend that it be heartily received into the fellowship of the New South River Baptist Association. On motion the church was received by unanimous vote.

October 11, 1944 the 21st annual session was held at Long Branch Baptist Church and on October 12, 1944 the annual session was held at Union Springs Baptist Church. There were 53 churches in the association at that time.

In 1944 Trinity Baptist Church presented an application for membership, and the motion was made and passed unanimously. Bro. John A. Oates by motion made the following requests:

1 - Each church is instructed to send to the clerk by the close of the associational year, September 30, a brief history.

2 - This history should include: date of organization, number of organizing members, first and present location of church; number and place of mission points organized out of the church.

3 - That these reports be edited and printed in the minutes, as the association may direct.

John Oates had no report for the association at this meeting but requested the above so as to have a report for the 1945 meeting.

A lot 150'x 200' was donated by the Sandrock Estate in view of building a church in the Spring Lake area west of Fort Bragg. The census reveals that there were 310 Baptist and 765 Baptist possibilities living in that area. The State Mission Board furnished the personnel for the beginning and directing of this work in the person of Brother C. S. Waters.

The executive committee was requested to study the association with the view of having a full time associational missionary. It was recommended that the New South River Baptist Association inform the State Senators and Representatives, representing the counties in which the association is located, that the association did in its regular 1944 session go on record as disapproving alcoholic beverages in any form and that we favor a State wide referendum on the question of the sale of liquor in North Carolina.

The committee on resolutions recommended that the association approve and ratify the conveying of the Trinity Baptist Church property to the trustees of the church. 1944 was the last minute books that referred to delegates, from 1944 forward they were referred to as messengers of the churches.

April 15, 1945, Spring Lake Baptist Church, located at Spring Lake, N.C., with C. S. Waters as pastor, and with a membership of 50, was

received into full fellowship of the New South River Baptist Association.

The 23rd annual session was held at Brown's Chapel Baptist Church Oct. 16, 1946, and Fayetteville Second Baptist Church on Oct. 17, 1946. The moderator asked for roll call of the churches; there were 53 churches to answer, either with letter or messengers. There were 54 churches in the association at that time.

At this meeting the New South River Baptist Association read a letter from Rev. Waldo D. Early from Tokyo, Japan dated 3 Oct. 1945. In this letter Rev. Waldo Early stated the need for a full-time associational worker. The letter was printed in the minute book of 1945. After returning to Fayetteville, in May of 1946 Rev. Early was asked to be the first field secretary for New South River Baptist Association. The salary for this position was $2,250.00 with $750.00 from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, for a total of $3,000.00 per year.

Rev. Early served as field secretary for fifteen months. Perhaps the major promotional feature of that time was the stewardship and mission emphasis Week in April of 1946. There were a lot of accomplishments during that time. Vacation Bible School was held in forty of the fifty-four churches, including one Indian Mission School and one Negro Vacation Bible School. There were two Central Training Schools for Sunday School Workers, one was held at Massey Hill and the other one at White Oak Baptist Church in Sampson County.

Rev. Waldo Early submitted his resignation to be effective September 12, 1947. He and Mrs. Early continued to work in the association for many years. He served many churches as pastor and on many committees in the association and Mrs. Early served as W M U leader.

The 24th annual session was held at Baptist Chapel Baptist Church Oct. 15, 1947 and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Oct. 16, 1947. Rev. Walton B. Guthrie was appointed "Field Secretary" or associational missionary in Oct. 1947.

In the year of 1947 there were 54 churches in the association and only 4 of them had a Brotherhood. The annual session was held at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in 1947. A note of interest would be that Judson Baptist, Pleasant Grove Baptist, and Sunnyside Presbyterian Church served good meals and some good fellowship around the table.

It was very evident at this period in time that New South River Baptist Association was very much against Alcohol. New South River

Baptist Association was (1) to seek out people to obey God's word and not touch, traffic, or advertise alcohol in any form, (2) seek to get dry Christian men to run for office and support them.

Clement was host for the *twenty-fifth* annual session, Wednesday Oct. 13, 1948 and Magnolia Baptist Church Oct. 14, 1948. The meeting was in the beautiful new building at Clement Baptist Church. All fifty-four churches were represented either by letter or by messengers. Faymont Baptist Church was accepted into the association at this meeting.

October 12, 1949 the annual session was held at Union Grove Baptist Church. This was the 26th meeting of the association. October 13, 1949 the second session was held at Cedar Falls Baptist Church. This was the second year in succession that the meeting was held in one of our lovely, new rural churches. Union Grove was one of the six churches to build within the past five years. God is really blessing New South River Baptist Association of Churches. It was noted that Roger Jackson of Concord Baptist Church expressed his call from God to preach, and plans to enter Southwestern Seminary in the Spring of 1950.

While browsing through the information and the 1949 minute books at the association office, "there is something new under the sun". Something new was that the 1949 Baptist Association meeting had convened on the second day ahead of time, this is a rare experience for Baptist.

Snyder Memorial Baptist Church sought admission into the association. Snyder Memorial was organized July 10, 1949; therefore Snyder Memorial became the 56th member of the New South River Baptist Association.

Rev. Joseph V. Watterson was appointed the new field secretary. The association office was in the Bryan Building located at 122 Anderson Street. Rev. Watterson did not have a secretary; a Mrs. Ellis was kind enough to help out when she could. The office space was very small, with "free" use of a larger room for meetings.

The first Junior and Intermediate Camp for the association were held at Pineland College in 1949.

The 27th annual session was held at Elizabeth Baptist Church in Sampson County on Oct. 11, 1950. This was the first time the annual session was recorded as being held at Elizabeth Baptist Church. October 12, 1950 the session was held at Lebanon Baptist Church. Temple Baptist Church, organized in 1950, made application for membership into the fellowship of the association, and was accepted. Brother George Denton of

First Baptist Church was ordained at the end of the day of the first annual session meeting. On page 17 of the 1950 minutes book reads: John A. Oates made a motion that the association look with favor on the production of a "Religious Pageant" entitled "The South River Story" and the motion was approved.

There were 57 churches in New South River Baptist Association at that time. Each church had Sunday School all year, and 44 churches reported having Vacation Bible School. It was recorded that Rev. J.V. Watterson, Field Secretary, visited each church in the association that year, (1950). There were 11 men licensed to preach that year, there were 4 ministerial students within the association, and there were 12 church librarians. God was truly blessing the people in the churches of the New South River Baptist Association.

The Constitution was revised in 1951 as follows: adopted at the Sessions of Oct.17 & 18, 1951.

1 - This association shall be denominated and known as the NEW SOUTH RIVER MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

2 - The object of this association shall be the advancement of Christ's world redemptive mission among men and the means of accomplishing this shall be in strict conformity with the New Testament.

3 - The association shall be composed of messengers chosen by the churches connected with it, each church being entitled to three messengers and ordained ministers having care of churches in the association, and members of the Promotional Committee and ordained ministers having their membership in churches belonging to the Association and living within the bounds thereof.

4 - The messengers from each church shall bear or send a letter certifying their appointment, and giving an account of the condition of the church and a statement of all funds contributed to all benevolent purposes during the year.

5 - The officers of this association shall be a moderator, a vice-moderator, a clerk and a treasurer, who shall - after open nominations from the floor - be chosen annually by ballot from among the messengers of the churches composing the association by majority of the members voting, and shall continue in office until successors are elected. The terms of the moderator and vice-moderator shall begin at the conclusion of the current session, the duties of the clerk and treasurer to conclude when the work for the current associational year shall have been completed. "The association shall maintain a board of trustees, three in number from among the male members of the body, the group being so arranged in tenure of office of three years' duration that an elapse of tenure of one trustee will occur each year necessitating the election of one trustee each year. The trustees shall hold in trust all property and effects of the association, see that all titles are legal, see that all such properties are kept in good repair, see that all properties are adequately insured reporting the condition of the same to the association annually."

6 - It shall be the duty of the moderator to preside during the deliberations of the body, to enforce the observance of the constitution, preserve decorum, appoint committees, on time, place, preacher and resolutions, decide all questions of order, give his opinion on any question under consideration after others have done speaking, and the moderator may cast the deciding vote in case of a tie.

7 - It shall be the duty of the clerk to record the proceedings of each annual meeting; superintend the printing of the minutes and their distribution among the churches. The duty of the treasurer shall be to receive all the funds sent by the churches or collected during the session of this body and disburse the same for objects stated.

8 - The promotional committee, substituted for executive committee, shall be composed of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Associational Sunday School Superintendent, Associational Training Union Director, Associational Woman's Missionary Union Superintendent, Associational Brotherhood President, all active pastors of the association, and one lay member from each church in the association to be elected by the church, whose name shall be included with the church letter of the association. The Officers: the committee shall elect Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Clerk of the Promotional Committee. The Promotional Committee shall meet at least once each quar-

ter at a time and place designated by the Committee. Two-Fifths of the members of said committee should constitute a quorum to transact business after proper notice has been given to all members.

9 - The Promotional Committee shall cooperate with the North Carolina Baptist State Convention in its program for the furtherance of the work fostered by that body within the bounds of the New South River Missionary Baptist Association. The further duties of this committee shall be to carry out the policies and will of the Association, as so expressed, nor shall it initiate any new policy of practice binding upon the Association unless specifically so directed; provided; that in an adequate emergency it may take such action as it may deem necessary, but such action so taken shall in every case be submitted to the next meeting of the association for appropriate consideration. It shall make a full and complete report of its activities at the next association.

The Promotional Committee shall be divided into the following sub-committees:

1 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee shall be composed of five members elected from the Promotional Committee together with the officers of the said committee and the chairmen of all sub-committees. This committee shall handle all matters committed to it by the Promotional Committee. It shall have the authority to act for the Promotional Committee only in matters pertaining to the work of the Association that may arise between the regular quarterly meeting of the Promotional Committee. The action taken by the Executive Committee shall be reported by the clerk to the next meeting of the Promotional Committee or to the Association, which ever comes first, and shall be subject to the approval of the larger body to whom the report is made.

2 - MISSIONS COMMITTEE: The Missions Committee shall be composed of fifteen (15) members whose duties it shall be to employ, with the approval of the Promotional Committee, a field worker; and to exercise general supervision of this work. The chairman of the committee shall make periodic reports to the Promotional Committee, and through the Promotional Committee to the Association its annual session. Seven members of said committee shall constitute a quorum.

3 - PROGRAM COMMITTEE: The Program Committee shall be composed of five (5) members. It shall be their duties to arrange for the programs for all fifth Sunday (held on Friday before the fifth Sunday) inspirational meetings and the annual meeting of the Association.

4 -FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee shall consist of nine (9) members. This committee shall be responsible for recommending a budget for the distribution of all associational funds, and for devising plans for the raising of such funds, as are necessary for the carrying on of a well rounded association program.

5 - ORDINATION COMMITTEE: The ordination Committee shall be composed of seven (7) members. It shall serve in as advisory capacity only. This committee shall assist such churches as call for their aid in examining such candidates for the ministry as are brought before them as to their call and fitness for the Gospel Ministry and make recommendation as they feel led to the church of which he is a member about his being ordained, and if there is need, help plan and arrange for the proper service of ordination. This committee shall make proper report to the Promotional Committee.

6 - PETITIONARY LETTER: The Committee on Petitionary letters shall be composed of seven (7) members. It shall be the duty of this committee to consider all appli-

cations of churches for membership to the Association and report its findings to the Promotional Committee, and through the said committee to the Association in its annual session.

7 - CHURCH ORDER: This Committee on Church Order shall be composed of seven (7) members. This committee shall handle such matters as relative to the churches as are delegated to it by the Association or Promotional Committee.

8 - Organization of the Promotional Committee: As soon as is feasible after the annual sessions of the Association the moderator shall call the committee together to elect its officers, sub-committee chairmen, and the members of the respective committees. The organization of the Committee shall be published to the churches through the next issue of the Associational Bulletin.

9 - Be it understood and so determined that no member of the Promotional Committee shall serve on more than one sub-committee except the chairmen of the sub-committees who are also members of the Executive Committee.

10 - Any church desiring to become a member of this Association shall present her petition to the annual meeting of the body through messengers appointed for that purpose, and if the Association shall consent to receive such church the Moderator shall extend the right hand of fellowship to the messengers.

11 - This Association shall not maintain fellowship with any church that neglects to preserve Gospel order.

12 - This Association may invite visiting brethren to seats and extend to them all the privileges of regular messengers except that of voting.

13 - The Annual Session shall commence on Wednesday after the second Sunday in October and shall continue through Thursday.

14 - By appointment there shall be preached at each Annual Session an introductory and a missionary sermon or an address on missionary work.

15 - The Association shall have control of and supervision over all auxiliaries and shall bear reports of their work at each Annual Session of the Association. Officers of Auxiliaries may be nominated by said Auxiliaries, subject to election by the Association in its Annual Session.

16 - This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Session by a vote of a majority of the members voting, provided that notice be given with the reading of the proposed change the day previous that such a motion will be presented.

In 1951 the 28th annual session was held at Stedman on Oct. 17, and Mt. Gilead on Oct. 18, 1951. Rev. Thomas E. Waters was elected field secretary for the association at that time.

Rev. Baxter Walker Pastor, of Mount Gilead Baptist Church, presented to the association an offer of 5 to 10 acres of land to be used for an associational youth camp. This offer was made by one of the members of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church. A motion was that this matter be left until next day's session when trustees of the association will be elected. This motion was passed, and turned over to the promotional committee. Calvary

Baptist Church was received into the association in 1951.

On July 27, 1951 the association, in a called meeting held at Stedman, voted to build an associational pastorium. This home was to include the office of the field secretary as well as the home for his family. The people of Stedman Baptist Church and the community bought and gave to the association a lot 150 X 100, on which to build this new facility. Plans were drawn by a committee and upon being submitted were adopted. These plans called for a seven room, brick veneer structure, and the association set the sum of $15,000.00 as the cost. This property was located directly beside the Stedman Baptist Church. The association voted to adopt "The Building Club" as the plan for financing the new home/office. To be a member of this club cost $25.00, $15.00, or $5.00. The executive committee was in charge of this drive. Members of the committee were to visit and enlist each church. The association was divided into districts and two of the committee members were assigned a district. It was understood that pastors would be contacted and the committee members would go to the church where invited. The committee checked into financing the pastorium/office; they were informed that only 65% could be financed, this meant that $5,250.00 had to be raised through the churches. A motion was made that $2,000.00 be allocated from the budget of the association to be placed on or in the Associational Pastorium Treasury. This was to be used on the down payment of the new pastorium/ office. This motion was passed. On April 20, 1951 at 5:00 p.m. ground-breaking exercise was held for the new Pastorium/Office at Stedman, North Carolina. The Trustees of the association were authorized to borrow $9,750.00 to further the purpose of the construction of the pastorium/office. It was approved that venetian blinds be installed in the new building. Hubbard Construction Company held the contract at $14,500.00. Treasurer of the "Builders Club" gave a report of funds. He assured the association that there would be money left to turn over to the association when all was completed.

The 29th annual session of the New South River Baptist Association was held Wednesday Oct. 15, 1952 at Salemburg Baptist Church. Remember the treasurer assured the association that the funds left over would be turned over to them? Well, guess what, there was approximately $100.00 left over. What a great witness this new project must have been

to all.

On September 1, 1952, Rev. Thomas E. Walters, the field secretary, moved into the new pastorium/office of New South River Baptist Association located in Stedman, North Carolina. The pastorium/office was located on the street beside of the Stedman Baptist Church. The office was a room 8 X 12 next to the living room of the home.

The association strongly encouraged the churches to promote the Annuity Board. The Annuity Board provides annuities for ministers and church employees who participate in the plan, and it also provides for the widows of the ministers a plan for income to help support them during their years of retirement. The promotion committee recommended that Grace Baptist Church-Raeford Road, Stoney Point Baptist Church - Camden Road, Bonnie Doone Baptist Church - Fort Bragg Blvd., be given the hand of fellowship admitting them to the full fellowship of the New South River Baptist Association. The following churches were received under the watch-care of the association: Liberty Baptist Church-Massey Hill, Lake Dale Community Baptist Church-Lumberton Road, Gethsemane Baptist Church - Bonnie Doone Community, Central Baptist Church - Spring Lake. The committee recorded the opinion that a church be at least a year old before being considered for membership in the association. This is when watch-care was started in the association.

Thursday Oct. 16, 1952 the annual session met at Snyder Memorial Baptist Church. Rev. Thomas E. Walters, Field Secretary, gave the following report. Pleasant Union Baptist Church, Roseboro, was lost to fire and they are trying to rebuild. Liberty Baptist Church, with only a "hand-full" of members, had their building ready for the top, and was clear of debt. Mt. Pisgah was building their pastor a new home. Stoney Point had their building well on its way. Community Baptist Church was building their new church building.

The name of the newsletter was the "Trumpet". The Newsletter was published once a month. 1952 was a very busy and fruitful year. Ministerial ordination 5, deacons' ordination 9, churches organized 6. This was a wonderful year for our Lord.

The 30th annual session met at Trinity Baptist Church Oct. 14, 1953. The association purchased for the use of the field worker an addressograph machine for $125.00, and a projector for $250.00. The projector was to be kept by the field secretary and the Training Union Director for the churches in the association to use in their services. Gethsemane, Community

Central and Liberty Baptist Churches, which had been under watch-care, were received into full fellowship of the association. Highland Baptist Church of Hope Mills, which was a member of the Robeson Association, asked to be received into the full fellowship of the New South River Baptist Association.

Thursday Oct. 15, 1953, Mt. Elam Baptist Church was the place of meeting for the annual session. A committee was appointed to plan for the formal opening of the associational pastorium/office at Stedman. The mission work at Shaw Heights on Murchinson Road was commended. The building had been constructed and that Gethsemane Baptist Church was sponsoring a Sunday School in the Shaw Heights area.

A special committee was appointed to investigate and study the advisability of building a garage-utility room at the associational pastorium. The committee approved the building of the new addition to the pastorium.

The ordination committee reported by Rev. G. N. Ashley as follows:

Gibson Lockerman -	Corinth Baptist Church
Dewey Page -	White Oak Baptist Church
Paul Curry -	Snyder Memorial Baptist Church
Paul Trogden -	First Baptist, Hope Mills
Daniel Hall -	First Baptist, Fayetteville

The ordination committee was called upon to assist with the examining and ordination services for the candidates listed above for the ministry.

In March of 1953 the first Brotherhood Banquet was held in the Stedman High School Cafeteria. There were some 500 men present from the churches all over the association at this banquet. The New South River Baptist Association Brotherhood rated 1st and 9th in the Southern Baptist Convention.

1953 was the greatest year in Training Union Program. Every church including the missions had a Training Union. This was a record that no other association had ever reached.

Pictured above is the new pastorium/office at Stedman, NC.
Rev. Thomas E. Walters, field secretary, moved into the new office/pastorium Sept.1, 1952.

CHAPTER IV

The 31st annual session was held at Piney Green Baptist Church, in Sampson County, Oct. 13, 1954. There were several projects to be taken on for the new pastorium/office of the association. Rails to be put to the steps, utility building to be completed, garage to be completed. The garage/utility building was to cost $1800.00. 75% of this money was supposed to be raised before the building was to be started.

The association requested that the commissioners act upon the authority granted to them by passing and asking the enforcement to close motion picture theaters between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, in Sampson and Cumberland counties.

New South River Baptist Association again goes on record as absolutely and unequivocally opposed to the legal sale of any alcoholic beverages; that every pastor use the pulpit to denounce this evil by the preaching of the Word of God as it applies to the liquor traffic and the Christian's responsibility in the matter, and call upon every member of the association to take stand against the legal or illegal sale of this menace to our country.

It was recorded in the annual session reports book in Oct. 1954 that God in His Wisdom saw fit to call home from our midst Brother W.J. Jones. Brother Jones was a pastor in our churches for more than 30 years. He served in a number of churches some are listed below:

> Salemburg, Roseboro, Autryville, Mingo, White Oak, Corinth, Elizabeth, Mary's Chapel, Piney Green, and Godwin, and was founder of many churches in this association and others.

Rev. Jones and Mrs. Jones were founders of Pineland College and Edwards Military Institute in Salemburg. Rev. Jones was the last moderator of South River Baptist Association and the first moderator of the New South River Baptist Association. The association took a moment to stand in silent prayer and give thanks to God for sending Rev. Jones to labor with us. The 1955 minutes of the association will be dedicated to Rev. Jones. Brother J.V. Baggett was to prepare an appropriate memorial statement and picture for this occasion.

Rev. D. H. Lowder, chairmen of the promotional committee, read a letter from Shaw Heights Mission requesting that they be allowed to come under the watch-care of the association for one year then into the full fellowship of the association. This request was granted.

Rev. D. M. Clemmons, pastor of Beaver Dam and Cape Fear churches, two of the three oldest churches in the association, reported on the honored dead of the association. A beautiful potted plant was unveiled in honor of those who died during the year. After a time of silence, Rev. Clemmons led the association in prayer.

In 1954 the W.M.U. held its annual meeting March 30 at Mingo Baptist Church, there were approximately 300 persons in attendance. Certificates of recognition of A-1 Societies were presented to Mt. Elam, Snyder Memorial and Trinity Baptist Church.

October 12, 1955 the 32nd annual session was held at Mingo Baptist Church. There was 69 churches in the association, 68 churches had Baptist Training Union.

The Governor of North Carolina, Governor Luther Hodges, was present at that annual session. Governor Hodges was recognized and spoke on the churches in the country as well as the ones in the towns. He stressed the fact that the church should be the center of the community, no matter if in town or country. Governor Hodges stressed the fact that the strength of Baptist faith has come from churches and congregations like Mingo Baptist Church and other rural churches in the New South River Baptist Association. The church can make a unique contribution to the progress of conserving moral and spiritual values. The church must serve the changing needs of its people in a changing world. At the same time the church will stand for the unchanging principles of Christianity, exemplifying the importance of replacing selfishness with love, charity and service to others.

The following churches asked for fellowship in the association, they were: Hope Mills - Robeson Association, Shaw Heights - a church that has been under watch-care for one year, both were given the hand of fellowship. Walstone Mission and LaFayette Mission applied for membership under watch-care of the association for one year.

The second day of the annual session was held at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church on Oct. 13, 1955. Report from the promotion committee, held Nov. 12, 1954. Mrs. W. H. Powell offered a gift of 25 acres of land to the association to be used as a memorial to her brother, Mr. Walstone, and it remain in the possession of the association forever. Two hundred dollars was taken from the association general fund to use for surveying expense. Permission was granted to organize a new church and build on five acres of the Powell tract of land, which the name be known as the Walstone Memorial Missionary Baptist Church. With stipulations that the property

must be held by a cooperative Baptist Church and in any other event ownership would revert back to the association.

Wednesday, October 17, 1956 at 10:00 a.m. New South River Baptist Association met at Baptist Chapel Baptist Church for the 33rd annual session.

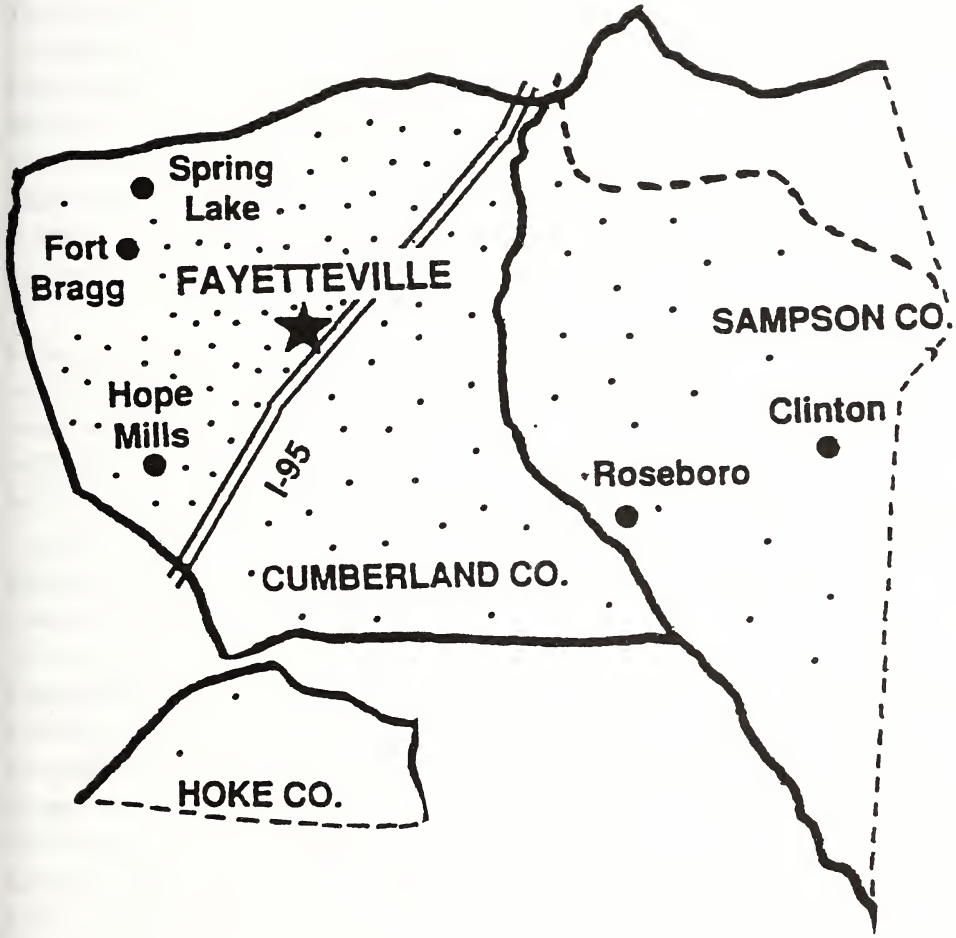
In a report from the promotion committee to the association on Oct. 17, 1956 as follows: three meetings were held - 1 - to elect officers, 2 - to carry out different studies for the association, 3 - this meeting was held at Stedman on February 24, 1956, at this meeting Central Baptist Church in Spring Lake requested for $1,000.00 to aid in the purchase of a lot for a pastorium. All motions were approved.

Carolina Land and Construction granted three lots for a church on the Colonial Heights development provided work was begun in the next year, if not the ownership returns to the donors.

As of Oct. 2, 1956 balance due on the pastorium was $6,556.92. There was $207.46 allocated for building a garage on the pastorium as of Oct. 15, 1956.

A recommendation from the executive committee as follows: "We recommend that the association authorize the setting up of a Seminary Extension School within the borders of our association and that the moderator appoint a committee to make arrangements for this school." This motion was approved. The executive committee also recommended, "We recommend an amendment to the budget of $870.00 to allow the New South River Missionary Baptist Association to continue the Baptist Home Program over Station WFNC. This amount will continue the Baptist Hour Program for 52 Sundays, at a reduced rate, from last year, and give us a better time, 12:30 P.M. each Sunday." This motion was passed.

Time was taken at this point in the meeting to extend the right hand of fellowship to the new churches coming into the association; they were Walstone Memorial Baptist Church and LaFayette Baptist Church.



The map shows the Geographical Boundaries of New South River Baptist Association as of 1999.

The 34th meeting of New South River Baptist Association met at the First Baptist Church, Spring Lake on Wednesday Oct. 16, 1957 at 10:00 a.m.. Rev. Thomas E. Walters, Field Secretary from 1951 to June 1, 1957, resigned. The 1957 Book of Minutes was dedicated to Rev. Thomas E. Walters. Rev. Walters came to New South River Baptist Association from Parkton Baptist Church, Parkton, N.C. He worked for six years tirelessly and unceasingly to improve the work of the churches of the association.

July 26, 1957 a called meeting of the promotional committee was held at the request of the missions committee. "Brother W. E. Pope, chairman of the missions committee, presented the name of Brother Clyde L. Davis, Pastor of West Side Baptist Church in Red Springs to come as missionary to New South River Baptist Association. A motion was made to extend a call to Brother Davis. The motion was promptly seconded and carried by a unanimous vote."

August 16, 1957, the last and 6th meeting of the promotional committee met at Stedman. The chairman brought a report from the missions committee and introduced Brother Clyde L. Davis, Sr., the associational missionary and Mrs. Davis. October 17, 1957 the second day of the New South River Baptist Association annual session was held at Roseboro First Baptist Church, Roseboro, N.C.

The moderator was authorized to appoint a committee to proceed with the establishment of a Seminary Extension Center in the area of the association. January 24, 1957 was chosen for the starting date for the first 18-week semester, and courses were offered in Old Testament, Preaching, and Religious Education. A faculty was secured: Mrs. Ralph (Ruth) Faires to teach Religious Education, Dr. D. Swan Hayworth to teach the class on Preaching, and Dr. R. F. Marshburn to teach Old Testament. College or Seminary credits were available. A total of 62 students were enrolled for the first semester. They ranged in age from 16 to 60, they came from the Roseboro-Salemburg area to lower Robeson County, the majority were high school graduates. The Seminary Center was located at Fayetteville First Baptist Church. Brother E.C. Watson, Jr. was director of the school. There was some question as to where the school could continue with so few enrolled for classes. With God's help the school made it through another semester.

April 8, 1957 Beaver Dam Baptist Church and parsonage was destroyed by a tornado. Rev. D. M. Clemmons was pastor; Mrs. Clemmons was injured when the parsonage was destroyed. Rev.

Clemmons was out visiting in the neighborhood and trees had to be cut so he could return to his home to check on his wife. Services were held in Beaver Dam Elementary School building until the new church building was completed.

Temple Baptist Church was the meeting place for the 35th annual session October 15, 1958. The Seminary Extension Center is still in need of students to enroll or the school will have to be discontinued. A motion was made and adopted that two weeks from the 16th of October (the 30th), start a new semester if enough students enroll. The treasurer reported that he had received the deed to the Colonial Heights property, which included the clause stating that the association make use of the property by May 29, 1959, or it will revert back to the original owners. This report was adopted.

"Whereas our association in regular session on October 15, 1958 at Temple Baptist Church, Fayetteville, voted to pay off the debt balance on the pastorium at Stedman." March 15-29, 1959 was the suggested date for our area to co-operate in the World-Wide Simultaneous Evangelistic Crusade.

Several things happened in 1958. Several churches lost pastors and several churches got new ones. There was painting, repairs, and building of new educational "plants". Mt. Elam Baptist Church burned and a new church building was built in 1958.

The 36th annual session was held at Mt. Elam Baptist Church on October 14,1959. In a called meeting by the executive committee July 27, 1959 Associational Missionary Clyde L. Davis, Sr. resigned effective August 31, 1959. A resolution of appreciation was in the 1959 annual session book. In this resolution it was stated that Rev. Clyde Davis was asked by the General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to serve as Secretary of the Brotherhood. A copy of the resolution printed in the minutes book be given to Rev. Davis, a copy sent to Dr. Douglas M. Branch, General Secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and a copy sent to the "Biblical Recorder" for publication. Mrs. Clyde Davis was the secretary for the associational missionary.

The promotional committee met at Stedman Baptist Church Oct.24, 1958 proposing to postpone the opening of the Seminary Extension Center of the association until January of 1959. February 13, 1959 the second meeting was held at Stedman again. The Seminary Extension Center had 30 people enrolled and was doing fine. May 10, 1959 Harold Bridges and

George McKeithen had been examined and were recommended for ordination into the ministry. August 14, 1959, the final session of business for the promotional committee met again at Stedman Baptist Church. The chairman of the missions committee announced that J.P. Johnson, secretary of the committee, would give a report on the new associational missionary, Rev. E. C. Watson, Jr.. Rev. Watson, pastor of Stedman Baptist Church, was presented for approval. Rev. Watson received a unanimous vote to be associational missionary. The missionary's home was in need of repairs and improvements. The trustees were given the authority to make such repairs and improvements as necessary. A gift of luggage was presented to Rev. Clyde Davis, associational missionary from July 1957 to August 1959.

October 15, 1959 the second session was held with Central Baptist Church at Spring Lake. "The Petitionary Letters Committee recommended that the First Baptist Church of Bamberg, Germany be received under the watch-care of the association until further study is made of this church. A motion was made and passed after some discussion.

A recommendation was made concerning the 25 acres of land the association owns near Walstone Church. The motion stated that the committee be granted the power to proceed with a survey and planning of the property for recreational and such other purposes as the association may desire. The motion was approved.

At the time of the report in the minutes book in 1959, 69 churches, this is 100%, sent in their letters. Autryville built 4 new classrooms and pastor's study and called J.R. McDuffie as pastor Sept. 1, 1959. Beaver Dam laid the corner stone for the new church building. The list goes on and on, new pastors called and new buildings added. There was a total of 20 churches that had reported some type of improvements to buildings or called new pastors, and Rev. E. C. Watson, Jr. was called as associational missionary.

The 37th annual session was held Oct. 12, 1960 at Cedar Creek and Oct. 13th at Snyder Memorial Baptist Church. The promotional committee reported that $4,287.80 had already been spent for repairs on the missionary's home in Stedman, and an additional $1350.00 was needed to complete the job.

At the 5th meeting of the petitionery letters committee, Eureka Baptist Church was presented requesting membership in the New South River Baptist Association. The vote was unanimous. "The moderator announced

that a meeting of the executive committee would be held in early September to consider the matter of reorganizing the association". "A special meeting of representation from the churches in Sampson County that would be involved in the proposed division of the association was scheduled for Sept. 29, 1961 at Salemburg Baptist Church. Final recommendation was to come from this meeting. Several churches reported building on or additions and paying off of debts this year. Several new pastors were called to churches in the association. Roger White was licensed to preach April 10, 1960 at Salemburg Baptist Church where he was youth pastor.

Eureka Baptist Church transferred its membership from the Little River Baptist Association to the New South River Baptist Association. It was reported that the largest budget in the history of New South River Baptist Association was adopted in the year of 1960.

At the third promotional meeting on February 17, 1961, the missions committee recommended establishing a Mission Station at the corner of Cain Road and Scotty Hills. The committee was authorized to purchase property and secure a sponsor, a church or the association would fill this position.

The 5th meeting of the promotional committee was held at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church on August 18, 1961. At this meeting final action was taken on a study of the possibility of some churches shifting to the Eastern Association from the New South River Baptist Association. "The committee recommends that these Sampson County Churches remain with New South River, unless they feel they would benefit from a move. If they do desire to move, it has the approval of the New South River Baptist Association, but it is suggested that these churches request a letter of transfer, and send this request to the associational clerk along with their church letter." This procedure was approved. Twenty-seven churches reported historical facts in 1961. Some of these churches had building programs, started new services, and some purchased new church furniture, and some new organs or pianos. Temple began the Institutional Sunday School Mission at the Cain Rest Home in January. Walstone Memorial has a Sunday School Class and Vacation Bible School for mentally impaired children. Lebanon Baptist Church organized Eastover Nursing Home Mission October 2, 1961. There were eight Ministers Licensed and three Ministers ordained this year. Mintz Baptist Church and Parkersburg Baptist Church joined Eastern Baptist Association at this time.

The 39th annual session was held at Spring Branch Baptist Church

October 24, 1962, and Roseboro Baptist Church October 25, 1962. Membership Committee recommended that Eutaw Heights Baptist Church for membership in the Association; they were received under watch care. Mintz and Parkersburg were reinstated as members of New South River Baptist Association. They were members of the association for a long time and decided a year ago to join the Eastern Baptist Association. Each was welcomed into the fellowship of the association. W.F.A.I. Radio Station in Fayetteville was carrying the "Baptist Hour Program" free of charge for the association, the clerk was instructed to write a letter of appreciation to the station manager.

There were several accomplishments within the association this year, listed below are just a few:

1- Moving the associational office from the missionary's home in Stedman to 217 Green Street in the Olive Building in Fayetteville.

2- Growth and development of the Eutaw Heights Chapel into a fully constituted church.

3 - Successful youth rally in April (Second largest in the state) and a successful fall youth roundup.

There was talk about building a new associational office on the Walstone property, this was delayed for further study and thought.

The 40th annual session of the association was held at Center Baptist Church October 23, 1963 and Cedar Falls Baptist Church October 24, 1963. Eutaw Heights Baptist Church was welcomed into full fellowship with the association. January 18, 1963, a special meeting was called at Autryville Baptist Church at this meeting E. C. Watson, Associational Missionary, presented his resignation and it was accepted. The missions committee was authorized to sell the missionary's home at Stedman.

Rev. Charles A. Stevens accepted the call to be the associational missionary as of March 1, 1963.

Some Historical facts for 1963 were:

Center Baptist Church celebrated the 75th anniversary

Magnolia Baptist Church called their "first" full time pastor

Stedman Baptist Church celebrated the Golden Anniversary

and much much more.

There were 3 ministers ordained this year.

New South River Baptist Association office located at 217 Green Street, Fayetteville, N.C. in the Olive Building.

The 41st annual session was held at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church October 21, 1964 and Immanuel Baptist Church October 22, 1964. Approval was made of a loan from the Home Missions Board and the State Convention for the building of a new Community Baptist Church to be known as the Lake Lynn Baptist Church. It was also approved that the Seminary Extension Center be opened on an interracial basis.

The 42nd annual session was held at Mingo Baptist Church October 20, 1965 and at Grace Baptist Church October 21, 1965. The clerk read a letter from the Village Baptist Church requesting to be taken under the watch-care of the association and to be received into full fellowship in 1966. This motion was carried. A special committee was appointed to study the advisability of establishing a nursing/rest home on the Powell property. It was recommended and approved that the establishing of a nursing home by the association be referred to the associational council for long-range planning, and the final decision be brought back to the executive committee or association for consideration before final action be taken. Lake Lynn was formerly Community Baptist Church; the sale of bonds amounting to $60,000.00 made their new building possible.

The 43rd annual session of New South River Baptist Association was held at Salemburg Baptist Church October 19, 1966 and Walstone Memorial Baptist Church October 20, 1966. Village Baptist Church was received into full fellowship of the association this year. There were 72 churches in the association at this time, and 5 missions. Establishing a mission at Arran Lake in January strengthened the Military Ministry by Snyder Memorial Baptist Church. Mt. Gilead Baptist Church established a mission at Lake Rim in July.

The 44th annual session was held October 18, 1967 at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church and at Trinity Baptist Church on October 19, 1967. Faymont Baptist Church reported they were in the bond-selling program and the bonds were available to anyone who wanted them. "New South River Baptist Association joins with the Baptist Pastor's Conference and the Mayor of Fayetteville in extending a cordial invitation to the North Carolina Baptist State Convention to hold its Sessions in Fayetteville in November 1969". The names of the Brotherhood departments have been changed to Baptist Men, Baptist Young Men, and Royal Ambassadors. This year (1967) was the first time a chaplain had been included in the

annual association programs, (Major) Arthur F. Bell, Assistant Corps Chaplain, Fort Bragg, N.C. told of the time a Baptist Chaplain baptized George Washington, the Father of our Country. March 20, 1967 at Pleasant Grove the executive committee met and a motion was made that the association move toward hiring a Christian Social Service Minister. This motion was carried. A mobile unit 10'X55' was given to the association by Elizabeth Baptist Church, Roseboro Baptist Church and Long Branch Baptist Church. Lake Rim sponsored by Mt. Gilead, for additional Sunday School space purchased this unit.

Mrs. Mary Phillips, office secretary, resigned on June 22, 1967 after 5 years of very efficient and faithful service. Mrs. Glenda Moore, a member of Eutaw Heights, assumed the vacancy in July 1967.

Wednesday, October 23, 1968, the 45th annual session was held at Union Grove Baptist Church and on October 24, 1968 at Fayetteville Second Baptist Church. The Vice-Moderator appointed the place and preacher committee: Benjamin S. Gault, Jr., was appointed Chairman of this committee. Rev. Gault was pastor at Macedonia Baptist Church. You will understand this statement later as we wander down of the halls of history for the New South River Baptist Association.

Union Grove, Mary's Chapel and Corinth served lunch on the grounds for the annual session. The newsletter was printed on a weekly basis and the mailing list had been increased from 1246 to 3000. The association had two Seminary Extension Centers - one at Fayetteville First Baptist and one at Salemburg Baptist Church. A mobile unit was provided for the work at Shaw Heights. On September 26, 1968 at Judson Baptist Church the authorization of the trustees to secure a loan to purchase a double mobile unit to be used by Lake Rim Mission. In 1968 Snyder Memorial Baptist Church sanctuary was destroyed by fire, the estimated damage was $100,000.00. (NSRBA Newsletter) May 5, 1968, Rev. E.C. Chamblee, Pastor at Autryville Baptist Church, held open house after the completion of the addition to the parsonage. The carport and storage area was added and paid for at completion except for $200.00. Rev. Ben Gault, Jr., pastor at Macedonia was making plans for a new educational building.

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[8]NSRBA Newsletter May 1968

The 46th annual session was held at Baptist Chapel Baptist Church on Wednesday, October 22, 1969 and at Cedar Falls Baptist Church on Thursday October 23, 1969. The Baptist State Convention was held in Fayetteville Nov. 10 - 12, 1969.

The 47th annual session was held at Magnolia Baptist Church, October 21, 1970 and LaFayette Baptist Church on October 22, 1970. There were 6 new ministers to come into the association since last annual session. New staff members were recognized: Mrs. Dorothy G. Rodgers, Administration Secretary; J. William (Bill) Ross, Director of Church Development (July 1, 1970); and Mr. L. Y. Perry, part-time bookkeeper, and Mrs. Chris Keith was commended as a volunteer worker. Mr. Baxter Walker made a motion that the newly constituted Lake Lynn Baptist Church be taken in under watch-care of the association, this motion was seconded and carried. Chaplain Joe Watterson, secretary Chaplains Ministries of North Carolina Baptist Convention, presented the new phase of the work of North Carolina Baptists. (Mr. Watterson was formerly field secretary of the New South River Baptist Association in 1949-1950.) The following statement was made in the WMU report as "food for thought". "If all the unsaved people in the world were lined up, the line would reach around the world 30 times, and this line would grow 20 miles each day." Think about this thought!

The first associational youth camp was held at Campbell College, Buies Creek the week of July 20 - 24, 1920. There were 133 persons including staff attended the camp, with 22 decisions registered.

Four acres of choice land has been purchased for to relocate Lake Rim Mission. A temporary building, donated by Eutaw Heights - has been moved onto the property, and the "go ahead" has been given to a builder for the construction of a new 24'x 60' Chapel. First Baptist Church of Fayetteville, after having a Mission Bible School in the "exploding" Ponderosa area, realized that something should be continued with the possibility of a new mission and future church being located there.

The 48th annual session was held at Faymont Baptist Church October 20, 1971 and Walstone Memorial Baptist Church October 21, 1971. The Long-Range Planning Committee reports that the committee was forced to take emergency action in locating new office facilities. The Wachovia Bank Building was replacing the Olive Building. The committee told about the new facilities on the Upper Level of the Mall, at Bordeaux Shopping Center. It was recommended and carried that the

Powell Property be used for a Christian Park for the churches in the association. Mr. Stevens was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for 8 years of service as superintendent of missions. The staff moved to their new office - first office on the upper level of the La Petit Plaza (the mall with the green carpeting in front - next to Eagles), approaching from the stairway at the rear of the mall.

The WMU reports that they served as hostess of the North Carolina WMU Convention, which was held in March, in the Cumberland County Memorial Auditorium, in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The 49th annual session was held at Autryville Baptist Church and Long Branch Baptist Church as co-host, October 18, 1972. On October 19, 1972 the annual session was held with Central Baptist Church. There were 5 new ministers ordained within the association this year.

The *fiftieth* annual session was held at Cedar Creek Baptist Church on Oct. 24, 1973 and at Highland Baptist Church Oct. 25, 1973. It was recommended that LaGrange Park Baptist Church become a member church of the association since it had completed its one year of watch-care of the association, this was approved. It was recommended and approved that Arran Lake Baptist Church be received under the watch-care of the association for one year as required by the constitution.

You are cordially invited and urged to attend the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration activities.

There will b a reception on Sunday, March 24th, at the Autryville Baptist Church from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m..

Each church is asked to bring a display for the Historical Fair in Williamson Hall First Church Fayetteville on Thursday, March 28th before 5:30 p.m..

A worship and praise service will be conducted in the Sanctuary of the First Church of Fayetteville at 7:30. Come early to browse at the Fair, or plan to stay after the worship service.

In the March 21, 1974 Newsletter of The New South River Baptist Association this invitation was printed. The Program Planning Secretary for the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention will be Guest Speaker for the 50th anniversary observance associational -wide service March 28, 1974 at First Baptist Church Fayetteville at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Robert McClellan was the guest speaker.

Carolyn Surrett joined New South River Baptist Association as office secretary August 1,1974.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Whereas, the efficiency and the quality of the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are affected by the facilities and services provided by the host city, and

Whereas, the city of Fayetteville has provided adequate and accessible meeting facilities and

Whereas, the churches of the host associations have provided essential service for the smooth operation of the convention program, and,

Whereas, the churches of the New South River, Robeson, and Little River Associations, through the Local Arrangements Committee, have provided valuable assistance in registration, as information sources, as ushers, in providing refreshments for program personnel, in first aid, and in other kinds of services to messengers and visitors.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, meeting in its 146th annual session, express its appreciation to the city of Fayetteville, North Carolina for its welcome, facilities, and services as host city; and to the local arrangements committee and to the churches of the New South River, Robeson, and Little River Associations for their significant assistance in the many kinds of service they have provided; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Mayor and Chamber of Commerce of the City of Fayetteville, and to the Moderators and Directors of Missions of the New South River, Robeson and Little River Associations.

(Unanimously adopted by the Convention, November 17, 1976.)

(The Newsletter - Volume 14, Number 47, December 8, 1976)

CHAPTER VI

In 1974 the New South River Baptist Association held the 51st annual session at Trinity Baptist Church on October 23, 1974, and at Pleasant Union Baptist Church on October 23,1974 for the afternoon session. The evening session was held at Snyder Memorial Baptist Church. Arran Lake Baptist Church had been under watch-care for a full year, motion was made that they be accepted into full fellowship in the association, this was carried. Mrs. Wanda Brown was serving as secretary with Mr. Ross and Mr. Pinkerton on a full time basis, this was carried. Lake Lynn Baptist Church ordained Rev. William Beasley, Rev. Bill Franks ordained by Autryville Baptist Church, and Rev. Jesse Brown was ordained by Central Baptist Church. People who had been a member of one of the churches in the association for 50 years were asked to fill out a card giving this information.

The 52nd annual session was held at Elizabeth Baptist Church Oct. 22, 1975 and Carroll Memorial Baptist Church October 23, 1975. The constitution committee recommended the title "Superintendent of Missions" be changed to "Director of Missions, this motion was carried. The executive committee is the body of the association that meets between sessions. This committee was at one time called the "Union Meeting".

The Executive Committee accepted, from Mrs. Christine Ross, books and other materials accumulated by Brother J. William Ross, who passed away on April 15, 1975, who was Director of Church Development. The books and all other materials were put together with all the audio visual aids and was named the "J. William Ross Memorial Media Center". The executive committee held a prayer retreat in September for all pastors. Miss Bertha Smith was the leader of the retreat. Salemburg Baptist Church ordained Brother Davis Benton September 1974. Carroll Memorial Baptist Church ordained Brother Bobby Richardson June 4, 1975, and Grace Baptist Church ordained Brother Bill Smith on June 4, 1975. Mt. Elam Baptist Church ordained Brother Tony Wilson. A "Joint Laymen's Semi-Revival" with Union Baptist Association and the Brotherhood of New South River Baptist Association was held June 1 - 6, 1975. The June 1 meeting was held at Fayetteville First Baptist Church. The June 2 the meeting was held at Second New Light Baptist Church - Bladen County. The June 3 meeting held at Calvary Baptist Church. The June 4 meeting

held at Beauty Spot Baptist Church - Bladen County. The June 5 meeting held at First Baptist Church - Parkton, and the June 6 meeting held at Second Baptist Church Fayetteville. (info - Bulletin of service). October 20, 1975 a Joint Session was held with Union Baptist and New South River Baptist Association at Bonnie Doone Baptist Church. (Bulletin of service).

The 53rd annual session was held at Baptist Chapel Baptist Church October 20, 1976, and Snyder Memorial Baptist Church October 21, 1976. On November 5, 1976 Gerald Williams of Walstone Memorial Baptist Church, and Jose Miranda of Village Drive on February 12, 1976 and Larry Harper of Eutaw Heights Baptist Church on June 25, 1976, were unanimously approved for candidates to be ordained into the ministry. Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and New Hope Baptist Church requested membership into the association March 28,1976. They were accepted under watchcare for one year.

The association wanted the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board to schedule a World Mission Conference as soon as possible. Two scholarships were awarded by the WMU that year. One to Miss Janice Jones of Stedman Baptist Church and one to Miss Deborah Jackson of Baptist Chapel Baptist Church. The WMU participated in furnishing cookies during the Labor Day Weekend at the Wade rest area. North Carolina State Convention and Campers on Missions sponsored this mission.

This was the first year for a Recreation Committee in New South River Baptist Association. There were leagues for men, ladies, youth (girls and boys), younger boys and girls teams, and still a younger league involving children ages 6-9.

The association had a most successful Associational Track Meet that was held at Douglas Byrd High School. Many of the winners went to the State Meet that was held at Campbell College. A Basketball League with most of the games played at Massey Hill Baptist Church gym. This was a wonderful way to witness to all ages.

The minute book for 1976 was dedicated to Dr. James Street Brewer - Roseboro First Baptist Church and Rev. D. H. Lowder- Massey Hill Baptist Church and Lake Rim Baptist Church in Fayetteville.

Lebanon Baptist Church dedicated their new Sanctuary Oct. 24, 1976. Village Drive Baptist Church started Children's Church in 1976, and started a youth camp in 1976.

The 54th annual session was held at Mount Gilead Baptist Church

October 19, 1977 and Immanuel Baptist Church October 20, 1977. The executive committee voted to call Ronald Loftis as Director of Christian Social Ministries August 1, 1977. A workshop on Choral Leadership was held at Beaver Dam Baptist Church for choir members and directors. The Sunday School Department had twenty-eight scheduled conferences in various areas of the association. Brother Jack Robinson and Brother Edward A. Rasberry, Director of Sunday School, planned to visit and conduct conferences in individual churches. April 4, 1977 the eighty-first annual WMU Meeting was held at Lebanon Baptist Church. One scholarship was awarded this year by the WMU; the recipient was Kim Strickland of Stedman Baptist Church.

The Brotherhood program had several "Coffee Breaks" at some of the rest stops during some long weekends. "Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Faires held numerous workshops for RA's. They were state-approved workers for RA's and were recognized at the State R.A. Meeting for outstanding work with RA's.

Seminary Extension courses were conducted by the In-Depth Bible Study Center at Lake Lynn Baptist Church. A professor from Pembroke State University and a local pastor served as instructors for these courses. Students ranged from ages 16 to 75, male and female, Negro, Indians, White, Puerto Ricans, and Mexicans, and several ministers and laity from other denominations. Shaw Heights organized a complete Church Training Department, a building fund established, and the Day Care Center was opened and licensed this year. The pastor of Shaw Heights was privileged to participate in Vacation Bible School Clinics in Robeson Association as a teacher.

The Human Relations Committee met twice this year with the members of the Layman's League of the Union Association to plan the Annual Semi-Revival. The Annual Semi-Revival was a success with a full house each of the six meetings.

Ministers Licensed during 1977 were: Lloyd J. King, Jr. - Bonnie Doone Baptist Church, Dougold W. McLaurin Jr. - Lebanon Baptist Church, Ricky Downing - Magnolia Baptist Church, Harvey Whaley - Magnolia Baptist Church, L. Gant Carter, III - Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Paul E. Honeycutt - Union Grove Baptist Church, Ottis Hudson-LaFayette Baptist Church, and Gene Denmark - LaFayette Baptist Church.

Some historical events of 1977 were:

Autryville Baptist Church had a "note burning" service on June 5, 1977.

Central Baptist Church reported they had been renovating the sanctuary.

Corinth Baptist Church had added a large porch with rails and had painted the church.

Cross Creek Tabernacle purchased additional property on Heritage Square to use as a Youth Center.

Elizabeth Baptist Church dedicated a "debt free" parsonage on February 6, 1977, and purchased a new organ on May 15, 1977.

Fayetteville First Baptist Church had three men ordained to the ministry, constituted Cool Spring Mission into a church, began the Deaf Coffee House, and called a minister of education.

LaFayette Baptist Church purchased additional property including a dwelling and additional educational facilities.

Lake Lynn Baptist Church ordained Terry Myers into the ministry.

Mary's Chapel Baptist Church completed their baptistery and built a ballpark in front of the church and placed playground equipment in it.

New Hope Baptist Church had their ground breaking September 18, 1977 and paid off the land debt June 6, 1977.

Parkersburg Baptist Church organized a Baptist Young Women group March 1977, installed heating and air, installed siding and painted the church in September and enlarged the parking area.

Snyder Memorial Baptist Church purchased property.

Stoney Point Baptist Church had debt retirement for educational facilities.

Spring Branch Baptist Church received chimes from a former member and had a dedication service.

Sperring Memorial Baptist Church had a mobile classroom to burn in November, purchased a new one and relocated. They changed the name from First Baptist Mission to Sperring Memorial Baptist Church and ordained their first deacons.

Wade Baptist Church bricked the church and established a scholarship fund at Campbell College.

Mt Calvary Baptist Church, New Hope Baptist Church, and Cool Spring Baptist Church were placed under watch-care membership

of the association for one year.

In 1978 the New South River Baptist Association started having one session in the spring of the year and one in the fall of the year. The Semi-Annual Session of the 55th year was held at Hope Mills Baptist Church on May 23, 1978, and at White Oak Baptist Church on May 24, 1978. On May 24 Dr. Mark Corts, President of North Carolina Baptist State Convention was the guest speaker. Cool Spring Baptist Church, after being under watch-care for one year, was accepted into full fellowship of the association. Freedom Baptist Church, in the Salemburg area, requested to be received under watch-care for one year. It was recorded that some 40 members had united with Freedom Baptist Church. First United was accepted under watch-care of the association. October 18, 1978 the morning session was held with Salemburg Baptist Church. Rev. Virgil Wilson presented the reports on resolutions. Mr. Wilson made a motion that the 1978 minutes be dedicated to the memory of Rev. Gibson Lockerman and Rev. Eugene Spell. Rev. Lockerman and Rev. Spell passed away in 1978. The semi - annual session meeting at Center Baptist Church on October 17,1978 and Salemburg Baptist Church on October 18, 1978. At this meeting Rev. G.N. Ashley was recognized for his many years of service in the association. Rev. Ashley served as pastor for 53 years and served the New South River Baptist Association since 1928. Rev. Ashley has served as pastor at Autryville, Center, Clement, Elizabeth, Judson, Long Branch, Roseboro, Salemburg, and Sharon Baptist Churches.

Ministers licensed during the year of 1978 were:

James G. Hammock - Calvary Baptist Church
George Shea - Gethsemane Baptist Church
Thomas Tew - Gethsemane Baptist Church
Paul C. Holland - Snyder Memorial Baptist Church
Tommy Underwood - Massey Hill Baptist Church
W. R. Nichols - Stedman Baptist Church
James L. Taylor - Walstone Memorial Baptist Church.

Ministers ordained during the year were:

David Shirley - Beaver Dam Baptist Church
Bruce Tyson - Cumberland Baptist Church
Terry C. Terry - Eutaw Heights Baptist Church
Edgar L. Lineberger - LaFayette Baptist Church
Ray Strickland - Magnolia Baptist Church
Yoo Bai Kim - Snyder Memorial Baptist Church

Jeff Norris - Spring Lake First Baptist Church
Paul E. Honeycutt - Union Grove Baptist Church
James L. Taylor - Walstone Memorial Baptist Church.

Several churches reported historical facts, they were:

Concord Baptist Church a new educational building.

Elizabeth Baptist Church installed a baptismal pool.

Fayetteville First Baptist celebrated their 140th Anniversary.

Cross Creek Tabernacle increased their Cooperative Programs gifts by 50%, Home and State Missions gifts by 100%. The Baptist Men gave belfry chimes to the church. There were four lots in Twin Lakes given to the church in honor of Mrs. E. N. Teague by the Teague children.

Gethsemane cleared four lots for recreation and remodeled Whitmire Fellowship Hut.

Mary's Chapel Baptist Church completed a storage building and improved yards.

Mingo Baptist Church received, as gifts for the church, cushions for the pews, furniture for the vestibule, silver candle holders and air condition for their parsonage.

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church dedicated their new educational building and endowed the Warren Johnson Memorial Scholarships at Campbell College.

Mt. Calvary completed their new sanctuary.

Wade Baptist Church celebrated their 50th Anniversary.

The 56th semi-annual meeting was held at Stoney Point Baptist Church on May 22, 1979. First United Baptist Church was granted full fellowship in New South River Baptist Association after having been under watch-care for one year. Friendship Baptist Church asked to come under watch-care for one year. May 23, 1979 the Wednesday morning spring session was held at Lake Lynn Baptist Church. Rev. Ronald Loftis, Director of Christian Social Ministries, was presented a certificate of appreciation for mission work. October 23, 1979 the 56th fall semi-session was held with Lebanon Baptist Church. Freedom Baptist Church was received into full fellowship of the association. LaFayette and Stoney Point Baptist Churches were recognized at the fall session for having an increase in Sunday School attendance. January 8, 1979 at Trininty Baptist Church the executive committee met and voted to approve that the Director of Christian Social Ministries, Rev Ronald Loftis, leave time to participate in

a preaching tour of the West Indies, under the sponsorship of the Foreign Mission Board. October 14, 1979 association wide efforts of all the choirs of the churches combine and present "Allelujah" at the Cumberland County Memorial Auditorium.

Rev. Charles Stevens, Director of Missions, recognized the new pastors and their wives; there were 18 new pastors. There were four International Missions/Fellowships under the sponsorship of the churches. The Japanese Fellowship met at Eutaw Heights Baptist Church with Mrs. Rose McDonald as coordinator. Weekly Bible study was conducted at Mrs. McDonald's home, Sunday School Classes met at Eutaw Heights Baptist Church. Rev. Yoo Bai Kim with the Korean Mission reported the total membership was 38 with an average attendance of 85. January through August Rev. Kim reported 24 baptisms. The Korean Mission met at Snyder Memorial Baptist Church at 2:00 P.M. on Sundays. The Spanish Mission met at Grace Baptist Church. September 1979 they celebrated their first anniversary. Rev. Marico Vargas was pastor of the Spanish Mission. From September 1978 through July 1979, Rev. Vargas reported 37 professions of faith. The Vietnamese Mission met at LaFayette Baptist Church. Total membership as of Sept. 1, 1979 was 43. There were 2 professions of faith reported as of August 1979. The language work of the New South River Baptist Association was highlighted in the Church Leader magazine as a part of State Missions and was also a part of North Carolina Missions Offering Filmstrip.

Some historical events that occurred in the year 1979 were:

Antioch completed their new Fellowship Hall.

Cedar Creek started their new pastorium.

Clement paved the parking area and purchased an electric piano for the Youth Department.

Cross Creek Tabernacle had a dedication service led by Rev. Charles Stevens for their newly renovated property on Heritage Square held in conjunction with the annual God and Country Day Celebration.

Cumberland Union called their first full time pastor - Rev. Oren Honeycutt.

Elizabeth started their tape ministry, the church office was completed, and they installed a new p.a. system.

Eutaw Heights started an elementary school with grades 1-6.

First United dedicated their new building.

Judson dedicated their new education plant on October 22, 1978.

LaFayette paved their parking lot and constituted a new historical room.

Macedonia had ground breaking for a new sanctuary.

Mt. Pisgah established the Howard Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund at Southern Seminary.

Piney Green purchased 4 acres of land adjoining the church property.

Pittman Grove ordained three lady deacons, Lane McArthur, Mary Sandy, and Ethel Propst.

Pleasant Union purchased a activity bus, installed new lights in the sanctuary, and installed a new organ.

Roseboro First purchased a Baby Grand Steinway Piano.

Snyder Memorial started their new family ministry building and celebrated their 30th anniversary.

Stoney Point dedicated their new church sanctuary on March 25, 1979.

Union Grove celebrated their centennial anniversary (100 Years) October 8, 1979, and a memorial room was started.

Walstone Memorial completed and dedicated the Clara E. Powell Recreation Field.

In 1979, Carl Garbo, Minister of Music at Massey Hill Baptist Church, started a Senior Adult Choir in Massey Hill Baptist Church. After about a year, Ronald Loftis, Director of Social Ministries, wanted the entire association to enjoy this fellowship. Ronald and Carl decided that all the seniors of the association would be invited to a pilot program. With the help of Rebecca Nance, WMU director, a dinner was planned for August 1980. The Acteens served the meal in the Massey Hill Gym. After this meeting, Ronald Loftis started a senior adult council. The council met each month at the associational office. A senior representative from each church was invited to attend. This is how the senior adult group was started in the New South River Baptist Association.

May 20, 1980 the 57th semi-annual session was held at New Hope Baptist Church and May 22, 1980 at Magnolia Baptist Church. There was an afternoon meeting at Village Drive Baptist Church and an evening meeting at Cape Fear High School. Hillside Baptist Church came under watchcare of the New South River Baptist Association, according to the constitution and by-laws, for a period of two years. Friendship Baptist Church was approved for membership with full privileges and responsibilities.

October 23, 1980 - fall morning session was held with Clement Baptist Church. Mr. Stevens recognized LaFayette Baptist Church, Arran Lake Baptist Church and Sperring Memorial Baptist Church for their high percentage in Sunday School increase. During the summer of 1980 a Senior Adult Steering Committee was organized. A successful dinner theater for the senior adults was given on July 31, 1980. The Korean Church began a weekly 30-minute radio program in November 1979. The Spanish Mission also had a 30 minute radio program weekly. Rev. An Minh Phan was in his fourth year as pastor of the Vietnamese Mission meeting at LaFayette Baptist Church. Rev. An Minh Phan shares monthly in the radio program with the Spanish Mission.

The first International Fellowship was held September 27, 1980. Over 400 people attended this celebration. Baptist Chapel, Highland Baptist, and Calvary Baptist Church began Seminary Extension Courses this year. March 1980 migrant ministries were begun with a workshop at Mill Creek Baptist Church. The purpose of this ministry was (1) to provide Christian ministries to the migrant farm workers in the New South River Baptist Association and adjacent area, (2) offer hope to persons who may otherwise feel hopeless, (3) involve churches in a worthwhile ministry beyond the four walls of the church.

The historical facts reported in 1980 were:

Antioch had dedication service for new fellowship hall January 6, 1980.

Baptist Chapel awarded Mr. Audie Page the status of Life Time Deacon.

Cedar Creek completed their new pastorium, destroyed the old pastorium and landscaped yard.

Clement paneled a Sunday School room.

Corinth added a pastor study, a Nursery, a storage room and carpeted the floors.

Cross Creek Tabernacle celebrated their 40th anniversary, honored the pastor and his wife (Rev. and Mrs. Baxter Walker) for 15 years of service and purchased new cushions for the sanctuary and classrooms.

Cumberland Union built a new parsonage.

Eureka ordained Ricky Downing into the ministry and developed the vacant lot adjacent to the church into a ball field.

Faymont had a debt retirement program and completely paid the church

debt.

First United poured foundation for new Fellowship Building.

Gethsemane ordained George Shea in the ministry.

Immanuel called Mrs. Ruth Faires as minister of education.

LaFayette began a singles again ministry.

Rev. Leon Keefe resigned from Magnolia September 16, 1979, effective Oct. 30, 1979. Magnolia bought 3 1/2 acres of land behind the church.

Mary's Chapel celebrated, on August 24, 1980, their 91st birthday with a dinner at the church.

Mt. Elam dedicated pew cushions given in memory of H. C. Warren.

Mt. Gilead held note-burning service March 23, 1980 and paid off bonds on new sanctuary.

Peters Creek purchased a parsonage.

Pittman Grove adopted the church constitution.

Roseboro First had unveiling of a portrait of Rev. G. N. Ashley. Rev. Ashley was the pastor for 40 years. They signed a contract for a new pipe organ that was a gift from Benson Brothers to the church January 1980.

Tabernacle had a dedication service for new pastorium Aug. 31, 1980.

Temple dedicated their fellowship hall and celebrated 30th anniversary April 20, 1980.

Union Grove started rotation system of deacons, had chair lift installed and had the church history microfilmed.

Mt. Calvary completed kitchen, classrooms and bathroom.

Wade started migrant ministries and K.O.A. Campground Ministries.

The 58th semi-annual session was held at Union Grove Baptist Church May 19,1981 and LaGrange Park Baptist Church May 21, 1981. A resolution of appreciation was presented to Mr. L.Y. Perry, part-time bookkeeper. Mr. Perry came to work at the associational office in January 1970. A resolution of appreciation was presented to Rev. Ronald Loftis and Mrs. Loftis. Rev. Loftis was Director of Christian Social Ministries Division since August 1, 1971.

Elizabeth Baptist Church honored Rev. G. N. Ashley for 55 years in the Ministry, 37 of those years were spent as pastor of Elizabeth Baptist Church. Antioch Baptist Church had a note burning service for their educational building. Baptist Chapel dedicated their educational and fellowship building Oct. 11, 1981. Bonnie Doone paid off the church debt. The

Spanish Mission moved from Grace Baptist Church to Central Baptist Church in January 1981. Cross Creek Tabernacle doubled their giving from 3% to 6% to the Co-operative Program, and voted to begin a day care center. Hillside Baptist Church added a new wing to the church and ordained 5 new deacons. Magnolia Baptist added 2 car porches to the rear and side of the church. Mary's Chapel placed a new steeple on the church. Mintz Baptist Church called Rev. Paula Clayton as pastor. Rev. Clayton was the first woman pastor of a Baptist Church in North Carolina. Peters Creek ordained Thomas Hall into the Ministry.

The 59th semi-annual session was held May 18, 1982 at Highland Baptist Church on May 19, 1982 with Central Baptist Church, May 20, 1982 with Wade Baptist Church and with LaFayette Baptist Church on May 21, 1982. The Newsletter had been printed weekly, but due to postal rates escalating, the decision was made to print the Newsletter monthly with an enlarged format. The offset press was sold, the full-time printing position was eliminated and a Cannon copier was purchased. Major consideration had been given to the possibility of relocating the office to the Old Cumberland County Health Department Building on Person Street. A special committee had been at work with the finalization of detailed plans for consideration by the annual session.

Historical facts in 1982 were:

Hillside Baptist Church was received into full fellowship of the association. Freedom Baptist Church congregation moved into their new church building this year.

Gethsemane Baptist Church held a note burning ceremony August 1, 1982; they paid off their debt.

Hillside Baptist Church ordained one deacon, purchased new pews for the church, and built an additional educational building.

Mary's Chapel Baptist Church licensed Michael Horner into the ministry, had their first full-time minister and family to move into the community and live on the church field.

Mintz ordained four deacons. This was their first ordination service in twenty years and held their first revival in over 6 years.

Peters Creek Baptist Church paid off the mortgage on the parsonage.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church ordained Timothy Hall into the ministry on May 2, 1982.

A lot happened in The New South River Baptist Association in 1982, listed above were just a few things. It is almost impossible to list

everything. God can really work wonders if we will only let Him!

The 60th semi-annual session was held at Hope Mills First Baptist Church May 17, 1983, Macedonia Baptist Church May 19, 1983. The Koinonia Church, out of Stoney Point Baptist Church, came under watch-care of the association for one year. For almost a year and a half there has been a concern and an interest in the possibility of the association having its own office facilities.

On March 27, 1983 at 7:00 a.m. the Walstone Memorial Committee of the New South River Baptist Association met at the St. James Inn for the purpose of discussing the use of the Powell Property to help fund this project. Those present at the meeting were: Don Cooper, chairman; Lester Carter, Kenneth Wilson, Charles A. Stevens, Marion Varnedoe, and Russell Davenport.

Recommendation of the Walstone Memorial Committee:

"1- 20 acre tract of land, known as the Powell Property, presently owned by the New South River Baptist Association, be offered for sale, in its entirety as one tract, with the Walstone Baptist Church having the first opportunity to purchase it, at a price of $100,000.00 until June 1, 1983. If Walstone Church does not exercise its opportunity to purchase this property by June 1, 1983, the 20-acre tract will be offered to real-estate dealers to effect the sale.

2 - That the proceeds from the sale be used toward and investment for providing a permanent home for the association.

3 - That the association also release any future claims on the Clara Powell Trust Fund to the heirs of the Powell property.

Attachments:

A joint recommendation as of May 16, 1983.

A recommendation jointly presented to this semi-annual session of the New South River Baptist Association by the Powell Property Committee and the associational council.

"That we list for sale after June 1, l993 some 18 acres of real property (known as the Powell Property) located near the Walstone Baptist Church, and that when said property sells for an amount netting at least $100,000.00, the two acres, more or less, now used by the Walstone Baptist Church as a ball field be conveyed to Walstone Church without charge."

This motion was made by and approved by unanimous vote. Russell Davenport purchased the former Cumberland County Health Department building on November 16, 1982, he offered to allow the association to pur-

chase the property at his cost.

The fall semi-annual session was held at Tabernacle Baptist Church on October 18, 1983 and at Beaver Dam Baptist Church on October 20, 1983 for the evening session.

Motion was made and approved to purchase the Old Cumberland County Health Department on Person Street for the new associational office building.

Ministers Licensed during the year were:

Gary Ballance – Antioch
David J. Pearce- Arran Lake
Tom Kane- Bonnie Doone
J. Keith Reynolds - Corinth
Glen Herring - Roseboro First
Col. Hyrum Dallinga - Cross Creek Tabernacle
Kenny Peele - Eureka
Fred O'Neal-LaFayette
Rodney Barwick-Pittman Grove

Ministers Ordained during the year were:

J. Keith Reynolds - Corinth
Jack Little - Fayetteville First
James E. Dees, Jr. - Tabernacle
Phillips Lloyd-Highland
C. F. Davis-LaFayette

Fayetteville First Baptist Church celebrated their 145th anniversary.

CHAPTER VII

The 61st spring semi-annual session was held at Massey Hill Baptist Church May 22, 1984 and at Autryville Baptist Church May 24, 1984. The Tuesday afternoon session October 23, 1984 held at Judson Baptist Church and Thursday evening session October 25, 1984 at Roseboro Baptist Church. A recommendation that the new office building be named "The Clara Powell Building" and that an appropriate plaque be permanently affixed in the building on the day of dedication. On December 5, 1983 the moderator, James Cooper, appointed Toby Bunce, Jim Hobbs, and M.M. Beard chairmen of the committee on renovation for the new office building - to be financed partly from the sale of the Powell Property. The Koinonia Church changed name to Golfview Drive Baptist Church.

The 62nd Semi-annual session was held with Lebanon Baptist Church May 21, 1985 and First Baptist Church Spring Lake May 23, 1985. Atonement came under watch-care of the association for two years. Golfview was received into full fellowship of the association. October 22, 1985 the fall semi-annual session was with Eureka Baptist Church and October 24, 1985 with Piney Green Baptist Church. January 18, 1963 at a meeting at Autryville Baptist Church, the Executive Committee approved the sale of the association home for the associational missionary at Stedman. A house allowance was begun for the associational missionary at this time. October 7, 1963 the associational missionary home was sold for $12,750.00, which was placed in a savings account. There was $1,800.00 of this monies used to purchase an option on the property at 515 Person Street August 10, 1983.

Approximately 167 persons from New South River Baptist Association made a trip to First Baptist Church, Sutton, West Virginia in July to assist in building a new church building. The volunteers did construction on the building, conducted back yard Bible Clubs, and conducted a census for prospective members. New South River Baptist Association of Churches and members made contributions to First Baptist Church in excess of $12,000.00.

Four families, representing four different churches of the New South River Baptist Association and the Little River Baptist Association met weekly for Bible Study and fellowship in the homes of these four families. The concern was the need of establishing a Baptist Church in the Linden Area. There was no Baptist Church on Highway 401 North from

Cedar Falls to Bunn Level (Harnett County, Little River Association). First Baptist Church Linden was born in an old building that was once a grocery store. First Baptist Church Linden came under watch- care for two years. Eutaw Heights changed their name to Cornerstone Baptist Church. Snyder Memorial Baptist Church ordained their first woman deacon.

New South River Baptist Association office building, the Clara Walstone Powell Building, dedication service was held January 13, 1985. A list of donors in memory and in honor of, except the ones that preferred to be anonymous, are listed on a plaque in the foyer of the Clara Walstone Powell Office Building.

THE FAYETTEVILLE TIMES

Saturday Morning, January 12, 1985

Rev. Charles Stevens stands in front of New Baptist Building
The Clara Walstone Powell Building.

The 63rd semi-annual session met at Long Branch Baptist Church on May 20, 1986 and at Village Drive Baptist Church on May 22, 1986. The fall session met October 21, 1986 at Cedar Creek Baptist Church and Gethsemane Baptist Church on October 23,1986. At the July 22, 1986 Executive Committee Meeting "it was announced that Cornerstone Baptist Church (formerly Eutaw Heights Baptist Church) was officially independent-not affiliating with the association or the convention". A special called session of executive committee August 12, 1986 for the purpose of calling a C.S.M. Director. Richard Spell was approved to the new C.S.M. Director.

Some historical events for 1986 for the New South River Baptist Association of Churches were:

Beaver Dam Baptist Church completed a new fellowship building.

Fayetteville Second Baptist Church ordained Thomas Lee to the ministry.

Evergreen Baptist Church started Baptist Men at their Church.

Grace Baptist Church completed construction of new education building.

Hillside Baptist Church commissioned three Home Missionaries.

LaGrange Park Baptist Church dedicated their new sanctuary.

Macedonia paid off the church mortgage.

Piney Green Baptist Church dedicated new church annex.

Pittman Grove Baptist Church built seven new classrooms (education building).

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church built new fellowship hall, offices and classrooms and paid off the note.

Sharon Baptist started GA and Mission Friends and a soul winning team was organized.

Sperring Memorial Baptist Church completed a 5000 square foot structure and ordained Mr. Walter Rose, and obtained a full-time Minister of Music and Minister of Education.

Spring Lake First Baptist Church reported that Spanish Mission became a part of their church in November 1985.

Area wide Freddie Gage Crusade was in 1986. At this crusade there were 1200 decisions made and over 600 professions of faith. Almost 100% of the churches were involved one way or another in this crusade. As we mentioned before Linden First Baptist met for several months in a "converted" grocery store building, received a mobile chapel to worship in.

Woman's Missionary Union held their 90th Annual Meeting at Baptist Chapel Baptist Church in April. At this meeting 9 of their past directors were honored and were present they are:

1944-1950 Mrs. W. D. Early
1961-1963 Mrs. R. G. Creech
1964-1967 Mrs. Johnny Rice
1967-1970 Mrs. Wayne Lee
1971-1972 Mrs. Dorothy Rodgers
1972-1976 Mrs. Pauline Mercer
1977-1979 Mrs. Alene Strickland
1979-1985 Mrs. Rebecca Nance
1985-1986 Mrs. Ercel Bass

The WMU Council presented to the association a picture representing 100 years of WMU work in North Carolina. This picture is hanging in the downstairs entrance foyer of the New South River Baptist Association Building on 515 Person Street.

The 64th semi-annual session was held at Highland Baptist Church May 19, 1987 and at Concord Baptist Church May 21, 1987.

The fall session was October 20,1987 at Spring Branch Baptist Church and Cumberland Baptist Church October 22, 1987. Atonement and Sperring Memorial Baptist Churches were received into full fellowship of the association. Sperring Memorial was constituted February 15, 1987, Sperring Memorial was a Mission of First Baptist Church for 14 years. A motion was made that the contributions by the churches be listed in the associational newsletter each month. This motion was passed. Fayetteville First Baptist Church began a Blind Center Ministry (teaching Sunday school to the Blind.) The Spring Lake Baptist Center was opened in the late spring of this year. The Spring Lake Center was co-sponsored by First Baptist Church Spring Lake. The Spring Lake Center was a site for a variety of classes provided by Fayetteville Technical Institute. The Spring Lake Center offered crisis intervention assistance through spiritual as well as physical needs. The Baptist Center in Salemburg, the G.N. Ashley Center, was also a crisis intervention center opened in 1987. Mr. L. Y. Perry, bookkeeper for 17 years, retired at the good age of 85 years. Mrs. Patience Maples became the new bookkeeper for the association at this time.

The 65th semi-annual spring session held at Shaw Heights Baptist Center March 22, 1988. The fall session was held October 18, 1988 at

Stedman Baptist Church and with Fayetteville Second Baptist on October 20, 1988. March 22, 1988, Mr. James I. Murphy, former pastor of Eutaw Heights and former historian for The New South River Baptist Association, now pastor of Hope Valley Baptist Church in Durham was the guest speaker to bring the doctrinal message. Mr. Murphy brought the message on "Priesthood of the Believer".

There was a motion that the office be closed the entire week of Christmas in lieu of a Christmas Bonus. This was approved. Jim Ciani, new bookkeeper was introduced at the January 10, 1988 Executive Committee Meeting. Open house and dedication of Spring Lake Baptist Center at 600 North Main Street, Spring Lake, N.C., was Sunday 20, 1988 from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. July 19, 1988 at the executive meeting, Bill West, vice moderator, presented this recommendation for associational council, that the association order one copy of Associational Minutes for each church and 20 extra copies for associational use, (if a church wants more than one copy they can order and the cost will be submitted with the church letter). May 12, 1988 - chairman of the Study on Associational Incorporation made the recommendation that the association be incorporated. A copy of the article of incorporation was to be made available to each Executive Committee member 30 days before annual session. July 19, 1988-Committee for Associational Incorporation was appointed: David Martin, Glen Holt, Donald English and Jim Cooper. Frank Davis, Chairman of CCM Council, presented a motion as a part of the CCM's report, a proposed homeless shelter. October 3, 1988 was the proposed opening date of CCM homeless shelter. At the March 21, 1988 Church and Community Ministries Department Meeting several recommendations were presented and voted on to be sent to the association for further consideration. One recommendation was that Kingdom Building Baptist Church be accepted under watch-care of the association for two years. A letter on Resolution on Gambling was sent to State Government leaders opposing Senate Bill 732.

The 158th Annual Session of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina was held November 14-16 at the Charlie Rose Agri-Expo Center in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Southern Baptist set a goal of taking the Gospel to the whole world by the year 2000, and gave it the name of Bold Mission Thrust. October 7 at 4:00 p.m. the Charles A. Stevens Center opened. The center was a non-profit corporation, operated and managed by the CCM Department. The center provided housing and related services

to 12 men. The center was located at 303 Maloney Avenue.

Southview Baptist Church and Eutaw Heights Baptist Church were received under watch-care of the association for 2 years. Lake Rim Baptist Church was received into full fellowship of the association, after having been sponsored for 5 years by the LaFayette Baptist Church.

October 20, 1988 Rev. Charles A. Stevens was recognized for 25 years of faithful and loyal service to the New South River Baptist Association. The following was written in the 1988 minutes books for the New South River Baptist Association.

RESOLUTION HONORING
THE REVEREND CHARLES A. STEVENS

WHEREAS, The Reverend Charles A. Stevens has served as Director of Missions of the New South River Baptist Association since 1963; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Director of Missions the New South River Baptist Association has grown dramatically in the total number of member churches; and

WHEREAS, through his leadership, mission awareness and involvement by pastors, laypersons and member churches has increased; and

WHEREAS, his deep commitment to Jesus Christ and the leadership of the Holy Spirit has been exhibited in the execution of his professional responsibilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the New South River Baptist Association in its annual session meeting at Fayetteville Second Baptist Church, October 20, 1988 express appreciation to the Reverend Charles A. Stevens for his twenty-five years of faithful and loyal service to the New South River Baptist Association.

Some Historical Events that occurred the year of 1988 were:

Concord Baptist Church ordained their first lady deacon, Mrs. Elosie Jackson.

Fayetteville First Baptist Church celebrated 150th anniversary in November 1987.

Hillside Baptist Church received 18 members by baptism and 28 members by letter.

Immanuel Baptist Church had ground-breaking service on March 6, 1988 for new church building on Morganton Road.

LaFayette Baptist Church and Lake Rim were constituted as a church on September 25, 1988.

Mill Creek Baptist Church ordained 5 deacons.

Mt. Elam Baptist Church ordained a full-time pastor, Rev. Jeff Porter.

Roseboro First Baptist Church burned October 11, 1987.

Snyder Memorial Baptist Church - Construction of Korean Baptist Mission Church on Cliffdale Road.

Sperring Memorial Baptist Church dedicated new building October 9, 1988.

Stedman Baptist Church observed 75th anniversary.

Village Drive Baptist Church paid off mortgage on church building.

White Oak Baptist Church had a ground breaking service for a new fellowship hall and additional Sunday School rooms on September 4, 1988.

The 66th spring semi-annual associational meeting was held at Walstone Memorial Baptist Church March 21, 1989. The fall meeting was held at New Hope Baptist Church on October 17, 1989 and with Elizabeth Baptist Church October 19, 1989. Shaw Heights Baptist Church was accepted into full fellowship with New South River Baptist Association. New Mission Baptist Church and Kingdom Building Baptist Church was accepted under watch-care of the association for 2 years. Mrs. Mary Hair was presented a plaque for 5 years of faithful service as secretary for Church Development. A motion was made and approved to "Adopt a Family". This was a program that was suggested by the Governor of South Carolina after Hurricane Hugo. There was also a need in Fayetteville in the aftermath of the flood a motion was made that the churches assist in aid by joining in the "Habitat for Humanity". A motion was made and approved.

Due to a donation and some funding from the Baptist State Convention, a cholesterol-screening machine would be available around

the first of the year. New Testament and Providence Baptist Churches came under watch-care of the association for one year. There was a request for the churches to share their music they no longer used with the association. This music could put in the Music Library to be shared with other churches. The gavel was presented to the new incoming moderator, Mr. Bill West by Mr. Jim scales and the new vice-moderator was introduced by Mr. Jim Scales. Mary's Chapel Baptist Church celebrated 100th anniversary. Cape Fear Baptist Church dedicated new fellowship hall. Mintz Baptist Church celebrated 75th anniversary in 1989. Roseboro First Baptist Church had ground breaking service for new church June 25, 1989. White Oak Baptist Church dedicated new fellowship hall and Sunday School rooms.

November 3, 1989 Rev. Charles A. Stevens announced his retirement as Director of Misssions for the New South River Baptist Association to be effective May 1991. This meant a committee was to be elected to search for the Director of Missions position.

The 67th spring semi-annual meeting met at Lebanon Baptist Church was April 3, 1990. The fall semi-annual session met at Cedar Falls Baptist Church October 23, 1990 and at White Oak Baptist Church October 25, 1990. The Lighthouse Baptist Church was received into the association under watch-care for 2 years. A report on the work at the Stevens Center was given. There were 16 professions of faith and 529 had come through the center since it opened. The Stevens Center was included in the State Mission Emphasis. The report on the Spring Lake Center was 98 hungry families helped, 4 satellite Sunday Schools, 8 Vacation Bible Schools with over 600 reached. At White Oak Baptist Church October 25, 1990, Mr. Stevens recognized the former moderators of the association with a gavel and their wives with flowers. Mr. Ellis Pope, recorder Emeritus, was recognized with a plaque for 18 years of loyal service in the position of recorder. Peace Baptist Church, (formerly Eutaw) was accepted into full fellowship of the New South River Baptist Association. Mr. Joe Lang reported on the trip to Sao Paulo, Brazil. Slides were shown. Mr. Lang reported 104 decisions were made in the 10 days he was there.

Some historical facts about some of the churches that made up the New South River Baptist Association were:

Baptist Chapel had a "note burning" service on homecoming day, October 8, 1990, and Tommy Honeycutt was licensed for the ministry in 1990.

Cape Fear Baptist Church had their first homecoming.

Grace Baptist Church ordained Mr. Gary Autry, Mr. Bennie Denton, and Mr. Bill Frost as deacons and Rev. James R. Scales went to Kenya on a Mission trip.

Hillside Baptist Church paid off their church debt January 1990.

Judson Baptist Church purchased a new pastorium.

LaFayette Baptist Church ordained Mr. Greg Miller into the ministry.

Linden First Baptist Church licensed Mr. Charles Price and Mr. Chuck Goodale into the ministry.

Magnolia Baptist Church licensed Mr. Greg Melton and Mr. Raymond Campbell into the ministry.

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church ordained Mr. Howard Daniel Williams, Jr. as a deacon.

Spring Lake First Baptist Church ordained Rev. Romeo as Hispanic minister.

Spring Branch Baptist Church celebrated its 195th anniversary.

Temple Baptist Church celebrated its 40th anniversary and printed a history book "The First 40 Years."

Walstone Baptist Church ordained and licensed Mr. Hamond L. Chandler into the ministry.

A recommendation by Rev. Ricky Spell at the executive meeting November 21, 1989 that the G. N. Ashley Center in Roseboro be established as a church based center in Roseboro by Roseboro Baptist Church.

The 68th spring semi-annual session was held at Grace Baptist Church March 19, 1991 and the fall semi-annual session at Arran Lake Baptist Church on October 22, 1991 and Roseboro First Baptist Church on October 24, 1991. At the March 19, 1991 spring semi-annual Session at Grace Baptist Church there was a motion to close the G. N. Ashley Center in Roseboro. Motion was made and seconded.

May 19, 1991 at 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. a reception for Mr. Charles A. Stevens was held at the New South River Baptist Association office at 515 Person Street, Mr. Stevens was the Director of Missions for 28 years. July 10, 1991, as the result of a DUI driver, Mr. Charles Stevens was killed. Rev. Stevens' funeral was at Snyder Memorial Baptist Church and burial was at Smithfield.

A special called meeting of the association was called by the moderator, Bill West, at LaFayette Baptist Church at the request of the director

of missions committee on July 16, 1991. Rev. Ellis Pope, Recorder Emeritus, reported a total of 279 messengers and 16 visitors present for a total of 295. Rev. Brian Lee was recognized to welcome the group at this special called meeting and to lead in prayer following a time of silence in memory of Brother Charles Stevens who was killed in an Auto Accident on July 10, 1991.

The moderator recognized Mr. Larry Knight, chairman of the director of missions committee, who gave a synopsis of the work of the committee. Mr. Knight reported that the committee has called Dr. Benjamin S. Gault, Jr. as director of missions. Mr. Knight introduced the committee: Frances West, Hubert Honeycutt, Brent Rector, Dorothy Johnson, Helen Sykes, Woody Bass, Bob Cloninger (who was absent) and Larry Knight (chairman). Mr. Knight Reported that 72 resumes were studied and discussed. Through a process of elimination, they were led to Dr. Benjamin S. Gault, Jr. Brent Rector presented the biographical information on Dr. Gault. Mr. Larry knight introduced Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin S. Gault, Jr. The motion was duly seconded. The vote was by secret ballot. The result - 260 for and 14 against, for a 95% yes. In a conversation with Dr. Gault he told me they (he and Mrs. Gault) were on their way to Fayetteville from Rockingham. Dr. Gault told Mrs. Gault that there had to be a 90% vote yes for him to accept, well with a 95% yes, looks like Dr. and Mrs. Gault move to Fayetteville. Dr. Gault responded that he would accept the call and be on the job as of September 3, 1991.

Pictured are Mrs. Dorothy Gault, Dr. Benjamin S. Gault, Jr. and Mr. Larry Knight.

The membership committee recommended New Mission Baptist Church in the Tiffany Pines Development, and Kingdom Building Baptist Church in the Clement area, be accepted into full fellowship with the association. June 23, 1991 in a Commissioning Service at Pittman Grove Baptist Church, CW2 Bill and Pamela Presley and Sgt. Lonnie and Jennifer Mollett, accepted their church's appointment as missionaries. Pastor Sam Owens gave the commissioning charge and Missionary Jackson Martin delivered the Commissioning Sermon. Mr. Presley left for Korea and Pamela served as temporary Home Missionary working at Pittmam Grove Church. Sgt. Mollett and Jennifer left for Panama in late July.

Richard Brown mentioned at the July 23, 1991 executive committee meeting, that the Lighthouse Baptist Church had disbanded.

Volunteers from Little River Baptist Association, Johnston Association, Robeson Association and the New South River Baptist Association made plans for a trip to Brazil July 25, through August 6, 1991. New South River Baptist Association had 6 churches involved in this mission. From Baptist Chapel - Melinda Ivey, Carol Martin, Lynette Smith and Mary Lynn Sutton, from Evergreen Baptist - Harold Shirley, from Magnolia - Shirley Freeman, from Pleasant Grove - Greg Melton, from Peters Creek - Allen Bedsole and Harold Gardner, and from Union Grove - Mark Thomas. August 23, 1991 there was a formal opening for Peace Baptist Church. They moved into their new facilities at 816 Stamper Road. October 5, 1991 was International Day Celebration at First Baptist Church Fayetteville.

A "get acquainted" reception and installation service was held at Synder Memorial Baptist Church September 22, 1991 from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m. for Dr. Benjamin S. Gault, Jr. Director of Missions.

Rev. Bob Owen, pastor of Peters Creek Baptist Church, received his Doctorate of Ministry from Southern Baptist Center, Jacksonville, Florida. Dr. Jerry Vines was the speaker at the graduation ceremonies.

The ladies at Trinity Baptist Church provided Bibles for the Fayetteville Generals. There were 9 professions of faith through this ministry. Arran Lake Baptist Church dedicated their new sanctuary, fellowship hall and additional classrooms March 1991. Cape Fear Baptist Church had a 235th anniversary program. Elizabeth Baptist Church ordained Bryan Tyndall into the ministry. Lebanon Baptist Church ordained Mr. Glen Matthews as deacon. Roseboro First Baptist Church had their first service in the new church building on April 14, 1991. Roseboro First Baptist

Church was destroyed by fire. Union Grove licensed and ordained Mark Thomas into the ministry. Village Drive Baptist Church licensed and ordained Johnny I. Byrd into the ministry.

The 69th spring semi-annual session meeting met at Fayetteville First Baptist Church on March 17, 1992, and October 20 with Cedar Creek Baptist Church and October 22 at Long Branch Baptist Church. The executive committee meeting held at Autryville Baptist Church at 11:00 a.m. January 21, 1992. The personnel committee recommended that Mitchell Shields, member at Spring Lake First Baptist, be called for executive director associate. Thurman Smith made the motion and Tom Herndon seconded. Mr. Shields began his duties February 1, 1992. Thurman Smith reported that the finance committee recommended that the 1992 State Missions offering be used: up to $1,000.00 for a Japanese Evangelistic Crusade in June and the balance to develop a video of association work. The State Convention helped in developing this video; this motion was made and carried. At the May 19, 1992 executive meeting, Dr. Gault presented a plaque of appreciation to Billy Ray West for serving as moderator 1989-1991. Mr. West thanked all for their support and prayers. Dr. Gault also presented a plaque of appreciation to Dr. Brian Lee for serving as moderator 1991-1992. Dr. Lee stated that he would be moving to the Ashley River Baptist Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The vice-moderator, Mr. John Kennedy, became moderator and the nominating committee recommended Rev. Ronald Long, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church to serve as vice-moderator, this motion was passed. The Japanese Evangelism Crusade was held June 17-18 at Village Drive Baptist Church.

Friends Baptist Church was admitted under watch-care of the association for two years. Rev. Frank Davis, pastor of Concord Baptist Church, announced they will celebrate 150th anniversary in July. Concord had a one-night brush arbor revival the first Sunday in July, Rev. Glen Holt preached and they had a pig - picking at lunch. New Mission Baptist Church ordained their first deacon May 31, 1992 at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. William Beasley, Director of the Stevens Center, reported that he would resign in two months. March 17, 1992 - Brian Lee, Ben Gault, Thurman Smith, and Lester Carter led in the "note burning" service for the associational office building. David Martin presented a portrait of Rev. Charles A. Stevens to be placed in the library of the associational office building. David Weeks moved that the gift, the portrait, be accepted, it was. There was an open house at the Stevens Center May 17, 1992. On

that day a picture of Rev. Charles Stevens was placed in the Stevens Center. Mr. Joe Lang, member at Fayetteville First Baptist Church, was installed as the interim director of the Stevens Center. William Beasley, also a member at First Baptist, was honored with a plaque of appreciation. October 22, 1992 the fall semi-annual session at Long Branch Baptist Church a motion was made to begin the proceedings to have the association incorporated, motion made by Ed Rasberry. It was seconded and carried. Dr. Gault encouraged all the churches to look into this for their church.

Mitchell Shields was ordained into the ministry in 1992. Fayetteville First Baptist Church pastor, Rev. Glen Holt was elected president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The office building debt of $104,100.05 was paid off in a period of 6 years. On March 17, 1992 at 7:00 p. m. at the spring session at Fayetteville First Baptist a "note burning" celebration of the associational building was held. Brian Lee, Ben Gault, Thurman Smith and Lester Carter led in the note burning for the associational office.[9] The association experienced another sad occasion, Mr. Ed. Forbes, the custodian was buried on February 12, 1992. Grace Baptist Church ordained Robbie Fox and Allen Elliott as deacons, and Steven Edwards was licensed into the ministry. Immanuel Baptist Church celebrated 50th anniversary.

Mintz Baptist Church called and ordained Dennis Rozelle into the ministry. Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church ordained Mr. David Harris as deacon. The youth of Mt. Pisgah raised money to help send Sharlene Thomas to Ireland as a missionary. Union Grove Baptist Church ordained Jerry Jackson as a deacon.

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[9]NSRBA 1992 minute book pg. 63

The 70th spring semi-annual session meeting was held at Center Baptist Church March 23, 1993. The fall semi-annual session was held at Trinity Baptist Church October 19, 1993, and Autryville Baptist Church October 21, 1993. On November 17, 1993 the executive committee meeting met at Magnolia Baptist Church. Charles Rawlings was called as interim director of the Spring Lake Center, Mrs. Strickland, previous director, went to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. January 19 the executive committee met and Dr. Gault presented a proposal of an Elder Care Center- an Older People Day Care Center. He recommended that a committee be appointed or elected to study this- the motion was passed. It was decided that the moderator would appoint the study group. At the May 18, 1993 executive committee meeting Dr. Gault reported that the New Mission note of $30,000.00 had been paid off and New South River Baptist Association held the note. May 18, 1993 at the executive committee meeting at Gethsemane Baptist Church, Mr. Dewey Parrish, properties committee, made the following motion-

> Recommendation that the two houses and lots on Lamon Street be placed on the market with the sale price being applied to the mortgage - this motion was seconded and passed.

Dr. Gault presented "Offer Them Hope". This involved 15 teens, which turned out to be 31 teens, from the Chernobyl area that came to our area for 6 weeks to let their bodies purge themselves of the radiation. The project involved host homes taking 2 of these children for either 3 or 6 weeks. A discussion meeting was held at LaFayette Baptist Church on June 1, 1993 at 7:30 p.m. The teens arrived June 28, 1993 and departed August 12th. All of the children received physical exams while they were here. Churches and families were very receptive to the guests.

The Spring Lake Center is now a direct Mission Center of New South River Baptist Association. The name changed to the Spring Lake Mission Center - A ministry of the New South River Baptist Association of Churches. All finances and work was under the supervision of the Executive Director of New South River Baptist Association. Mitchell Shields, associate director of missions, resigned.

Rev. E. Glen Holt, pastor of Fayetteville First Baptist Church, was re-elected president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Rev. Holt was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Methodist College in May 1993.

Some historical facts of 1993 were:

First United Baptist Church celebrated 15th anniversary this year.

Freedom Baptist Church held dedication service for their new Fellowship Hall and other additions.

Harmony had ordination service for Andy Landrum July 18. 1993.

Hope Mills First Baptist Church celebrated 100th anniversary.

LaGrange Park Baptist Church paid church debt off and started a Deaf Ministry.

Linden First Baptist Church had dedication service for their new church August 29, 1993.

Mingo Baptist Church started Spanish Mission and celebrated the 80th anniversary of their church this year.

Mt. Elam ordained their first female deacon, Jackie McLamb, they also celebrated honoring Rev. & Mrs. W.H. Calcutt for 30 years of dedicated service Aug.1993.

Mt. Pisgah ordained Mr. Lee Crocker as a deacon.

New Mission ordained 6 deacons, and licensed their first woman minister.

Salemburg Baptist Church had 150th anniversary celebration. They also began construction on the Family Life Center.

Stedman Baptist Church began a Day Care Center.

Trinity Baptist Church built a church building on Southland Drive in Fayetteville.

Union Grove Baptist Church ordained Furman McLamb as a deacon and licensed Jason Stone to Preach.

CHAPTER VIII

The 71st semi-annual session meeting was held March 22, 1994 at Walstone Memorial Baptist Church. The fall session was held at Faymont Baptist Church on October 18, 1994 and at Harmony Baptist Church on October 20, 1994.

January 18, 1994 the executive committee meeting was held at Piney Green Baptist Church. Bill West, chairman of the personnel committee, presented a motion to call Mr. Mitchell Shields as asssociate director of missions effective February 1, 1994. The motion was seconded and a secret ballot was taken, with 78 for and 6 against. The personnel committee also brought a motion that Billy Warren be employed to serve as custodian, this motion was seconded and carried. Peters Creek Baptist Church had some very outstanding accomplishments in their church year. Peters Creek received notification and endorsement of their Discipleship Training efforts from the Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department of the Southern Baptist Convention. This year Peters Creek placed second in the state and 5th in the Southern Baptist Convention for the study of Christian Ethics. The Church has continually placed in the top 25 churches in North Carolina in Study Course Awards; this is the first time they have rated in the Southern Baptist Convention. In addition to the second place ranking for Christian Ethics, Peters Creek also placed 25th in the Family Ministries studies for the past church year. This country church of 116 members has led the association in study course awards for the past 5 years. Top students for the 92-93 church year were two sisters, Mrs. Wylatta Ackerman and Mrs. Alzada Melvin; both tied with 15 study courses completed. Top student for the 91-92 year was Miss Jacklyn Smith with 14 study courses.

The committee on ministers emergency assistance fund was begun to assist any salaried ordained pastor or staff member of a church and/or New South River Baptist Association who becomes disabled or involuntarily terminated.

October 18, 1994 the fall semi-annual session was held at Faymont Baptist Church. Dr. Gault recognized Mr. John Kennedy, the moderator, and presented him with a plaque of appreciation for serving as moderator of New South River Baptist Association. Bill West gave a report of the personal committee; Joe Lang was employed on a full time basis for the Charles A. Stevens Center.

November 21, 1994 Mrs. Willa Dean Bullard joined the staff of New South River Baptist Association as financial/secretary. Willa Dean is a member at Beaver Dam Baptist Church.

Concord Baptist Church ordained Nixon Spell and Keith Sutton as deacons. October 2, 1994 Mount Gilead Baptist Church observed their 109th anniversary. Mount Pisgah Baptist Church ordained Tommy Smith as deacon. June 1, 1994 Dr. David Crocker preached his first sermon at Snyder Memorial Baptist Church.

December 30, 1994 New South River Baptist Association was incorporated. The initial directors were John Kennedy, Ronald Long and Benjamin S. Gault, Jr. Mr. Walter Jordan was the incorporator, acting as representative of all current members of New South River Baptist Association.[10]

The 72nd Semi - annual session of the New South River Baptist Association was held at Beaver Dam Baptist Church on March 21, 1995. The fall session was held at Magnolia Baptist Church on October 17, 1995 and at Clement Baptist Church on October 19, 1995. Dr. Gault presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Johnson Gupton for serving as recorder from 1990 - 1995. Pleasant Grove Baptist Church started a new ministry at Baywood Golf Course on Sunday Mornings. The ministry started April 9, 1995 at 6:30 a.m. Mr. Neil Armstrong stated that the Council of Christian Athletes were trying to place a chaplain on each golf course.

Central Korean Baptist Church of Spring Lake was received under watch-care of the association. At the fall semi-annual session at Magnolia Baptist Church Rev. Randy White made a special presentation to Gwen Yeager and David Sessoms from the Fayetteville Police Department. Rev. White said "They counsel children who have been abused. This program is called "We Care Bear Program". Each child is given a bear to cuddle and take home with them". Dr. Gault challenged the churches to buy bears and give them. A motion was made for The New South River Baptist Association Churches to supply bears for this program - motion seconded and passed.

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[10]NSRBA 1994 minute book pg. 57

pictured above -"We Care Bears" program
Dr. Dewey Thomas pastor at Cedar Creek Baptist Church presents bears to Willa Dean Bullard at NSRB Association

March 26, 1995 the German Fellowship started, and was sponsored by Walstone Memorial Baptist Church. It started with 36 people and has an average of 49 people attending services. Mrs. Irene McDuffie was the co-ordinator of the German Fellowship.

Korean Central Baptist Mission and Temple Baptist Church ordained Jin Ho Cook and dedicated the new building at Spring Lake. Mrs. Dot Johnson, WMU director, reported that April 15, 1996 the New South River Baptist Association WMU would celebrate their 100th meeting.

Dr. Gault said that his dream of a Baptist Book Store in Fayetteville became a reality in August 1996. Dr. Gault had worked on this project for over 5 years. Boyce Bible School was another dream of Dr. Gault's that came to be. Now Dr. Gault and others are working diligently on an Elder Day Care. Some of our churches participated in the New York Missions - Evergreen Baptist Church - David Shirley - shared experiences at Watertown, N.Y. they had Bible School and did some surveys.

Mary's Chapel Baptist Church - David Willis, Pastor, shared his experiences through slides, they went to Sullivan Roads Baptist Church. Grace Baptist Church - Bob Phipps- shared his dream of the church becoming involved in missions and the fulfillment of that dream through their experience in the Thousand Island Association. Sharon Phillips shared her trip to Indonesia. There were 10 million people there, and Sharon said that there were government restrictions against openly sharing Jesus. Sharon said there was 98 decisions of faith made during their time in Indonesia.

Kevin Maxwell, Walstone Baptist Church, shared with the group the trip to Belarus on the Evangelistic Mission. Kevin stated that the people have little to smile about due to the living conditions there, but when they heard about Jesus they began to smile real big. Jamie Britt and Eileen Hatch, Fayetteville First Baptist Church shared about their experience with World Changer. They worked with children in public housing areas who had never heard about Jesus. They also painted houses for people and helped with different repairs that were needed. Student's grades 7-12 and College level participated in this mission. Beth Barlett and Carl Naylor, from Spring Branch Baptist Church talked about their experience with the Wayne Bristo Ministries on a trip to Brazil. A group of 28 witnessed in homes and in schools on this trip. Tim McQueen, Spring Branch Pastor, shared his experiences as a foreign missionary and pastor in Bermuda, where less than 1/2% are Baptist.

Preacher Place Committee Report given by Ray Barnhill, there was to be no spring meeting in 1996, only a fall meeting once a year.

Cedar Falls Baptist Church dedicated their new fellowship hall April 30, 1995. Center Baptist Church celebrated 100th anniversary June 11, 1995, with R. G. Puckett as guest speaker and had dinner on the grounds.

Cumberland Baptist Church -The Cumberland Baptist Hispanic Mission was started in January 1995. The pastor, Alberto E. Roubert was ordained on September 24, 1995. Fayetteville Second Baptist Church celebrated 83rd homecoming. Lake Rim Baptist Church ordained into the ministry Dennis Bowen. Peace Baptist Church celebrated their 7th church birthday. Spring Branch Baptist Church observed their 200th anniversary. Stedman Baptist Church voted to use the parsonage for a missionary family from Ukraine to live in. Alex, Tonya, and Frederick Goncharov will be living in the parsonage while Alex is attending Campbell University.

In March 1995 Walstone Memorial Baptist Church began the first

German Language Fellowship in the history of the Baptist State Convention.

World Missions Conference was November 5-8 with 50 churches participating; each church had 5 missionaries. Each church was responsible for transporting the missionary to the church and back to the motel.

"Looking back usually brings pleasant thoughts. One must remember that the thinking of the past is only profitable when it becomes the foundation for the future." (Quote Benjamin S. Gault, Jr. book of advanced reports spring session 1995 at Beaver Dam Baptist Church.)

1995 was the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The 73rd annual meeting was held at Village Baptist Church October 22, 1996 and with Elizabeth Baptist Church October 24, 1996. January 23, 1996 executive meeting was held with Peters Creek Baptist Church. At this meeting Joe Lang, director of the Charles A. Stevens Center, submitted his resignation to be effective at the end of March. A recommendation from the advisory committee of the Stevens Center was to downsize to dormitory only and employee a part time director, or to demolish the house and sell the land. At the executive committee meeting May 22 at Trinity Baptist Church, Mr. Joe Lang was presented a plaque for his dedicated work at the Stevens Center. Mr. Lang was not present to receive the plaque but it was to be given to him. Dr. Gault reported that there were no residents at the Stevens Center at the present time and the advice of the police department was to board up the doors and windows. The advisory committee recommended selling the dormitory building. The committee stated that a bid for $25,000.00 had been made.

July 23, 1996 at Mingo Baptist Church the executive committee met and Mr. Phil Addison gave a report on new work. Mr. Addison said that on the Cliffdale Project there were over 300 residents and he found there was an interest for a church in the area.

Charles Rawlings, Spring Lake Mission, said that they were in the process of collecting used shoes, and a man from Florida would pick them up. The man stated that he could not pick up less than 2500 pairs of shoes. The money earned was to be used at Spring Lake Mission for an after school project. The shoes were collected and it was a big success.

Temple Baptist Church was the place for the executive committee meeting for September 24, 1996. Bruce Martin spoke about the Cliffdale West Work. He reported that Village Baptist Church had called Rev. Morris Barnett as pastor of Cliffdale West. The report gave an estimated

number of 27,000 people living in the Cliffdale West area. Village Baptist Church is the mother church of Cliffdale West.

Dot Johnson reported that the association was helping to refurbish a room at the Stanton Hospitality House near Cape Fear Valley Hospital. The Stanton House is a place that the families of patients in the hospital could stay for a small fee per night. Mrs. Dot Johnson stated that there was a need for blankets and linens and etc.

October 22, 1996 the annual session was held at Village Baptist Church. Dr. Gault presented a plaque to Ronald Long for his dedicated service to New South River Baptist Association as moderator.

Rev. Ronald Long and Dr. Ben Gault went to South Africa on a mission trip.

Dr. Gault reported that the association no longer owned the Charles A. Stevens Center. Mr. Lou Prosser purchased the Stevens Center dormitory for a church. August 17,1996 was dedication day for the Door of Faith Church on Maloney Avenue.

The membership committee recommended that the Fellowship Baptist Church, 4704 South Main Street, Hope Mills, be received under watch-care effective October 22, 1996. Cape Fear Baptist Church ordained Mr. Michael Grossman into the ministry on January 20, 1996. Evergreen Baptist Church ordained 2 deacons in 1996. Salemburg Baptist church dedicated the family life center August 1, 1996.

The 74th annual meeting of the New South River Baptist Association was held at LaGrange Park Baptist Church on October 21,1997, and at Mt. Elam Baptist Church on October 23, 1997. The theme "Teamwork - Together We Achieve the Extraordinary". January 11, 1997 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. was the grand opening of the Beatitude House located at 102 North Main Street in Spring Lake everyone was invited to attend. The Beatitude House at Spring Lake was discussed at this meeting. The Beatitude House is a place where people, not just Baptist people, can go for assistance not only in material things but Spiritual needs as well. Dr. Gault summed it up as follows:

THE BEATITUDE HOUSE Matt 5:7

This ministry is the continuation of an idea begun in the late 1980's in another part of North Carolina. A man was standing in line at a grocery store while two other men cashed what appeared to be payroll checks. Each man received $168.00. This could have been for a week, two weeks, or a month.

After leaving the store the first man puzzled over what $168.00 would purchase if one had to pay rent, provide transportation, buy food and clothing and possibly support family members. Repeatedly the question came "Is there some way these men could stretch their paycheck and have a better life style". To simply give them things would "rob" them of the pleasure of making choices and feeling good about themselves. This leads to a life of dependency and certainly does not convey an attitude of equality. What the writer was searching for was a way to offer
"A HAND UP NOT A HAND OUT."

From that was born the idea that collecting and reselling good items that people no longer used (example clothes, dishes, knick-knacks, tools, household items.) Would allow people to s-t-r-e-t-c-h their pay check. As a non-profit ministry the Beatitude House could offer tax deductions to the donor. This would make the Beatitude House a ministry of helping people and treating them as equals.[11]

[11]Dr. Benjamin S. Gault, Jr.

January 21, 1997 the executive committee meeting met at Peters Creek Baptist Church. There was some discussion about some of the churches that had not sent in their Annual Church Profile Letter (ACP). The ACP is a letter reporting the statistics of the church. Every church is asked to send an ACP in each year. If a church does not send in an ACP for 2 consecutive years, a committee is appointed to contact the church to see if they need some kind of assistance or etc. If the letter is not received then, the church is under watch-care of the association. If no ACP is received the next year the church name is removed from the New South River Baptist Association of Churches.

Mrs. Dot Johnson gave a report on the WMU; the WMU includes youth groups as well as adult ladies. On April 19 G. A. day camp at Cedar Creek Church in 1996 and 16 were saved. Mr. Walter Jordan gave the Senior Adult report. Mr. Jordan stated that the seniors would go on a retreat to Caswell in May. Mr. Roger White presented the personnel committee report. He spoke of the need for the association office to have another person to work, because Mr. Mitchell Shields will be at the Beatitude House. Dr. Gault made a recommendation that the Spring Lake Center be closed and the Beatitude House and the Spring Lake Center be combined. This would mean that Charles Rawlings would move to the Beatitude House to work with Mitchell. This motion was voted on and passed.

April 7, 1997 Jessica Smith Griffin was hired as the communications/secretary for New South River Baptist Association. Jessica's job description included The Communicator, the monthly newsletter. Jessica was in charge of the media center, music library, video library, and the reading library. Jessica is a member at Peters Creek Baptist Church.

The church year has been changed to September 1 to August 31 of each year. The Annual Church Profile letters should be in the office by September 15, so the clerk will have time to enter all the information in the minute books.

The membership committee reported that Fellowship Baptist Church, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Korean Central Baptist Church were all restored into full fellowship in New South River Baptist Association. The motion was carried.

July 11, 1997 God called Mr. Charles Rawlings to Heaven.

In Memory of Charles Rawlings
A dedicated Christian and Friend
Those who knew Charles saw his love for God and people throughout his actions. He was the Associate Director of the Beatitude House/Spring Lake Center and member of Spring Lake First Baptist. Even though he was a Master Sergeant from the military and graduate from Campbell University, he chose to dedicate his time to a job that would glorify God. He took meals to the shut-ins and visited them; he was part of the "Big Brothers" program, he held Backyard Bible Clubs at the Spring Lake Center and many times when people would come by and need assistance and there were no funds available he would give his own to help them out. Charles was a humble man who didn't want a lot of praise. He will be greatly missed by those he left behind and those he reached by his daily ministry; however, Heaven has truly received a blessing with the presence of Charles Rawlings.[12]

There have been 8 Language Missions birthed and there are 71 language groups that do not have a Baptist Congregation.

Mr. Jerry Monroe joined the New South River Baptist Association staff as a volunteer for language groups. Mr. Monroe is a very dedicated person to his Lord, he goes out to the gathering places to witness to the migrants and others. Mr. Monroe is a member at Lebanon Baptist Church.

Willa Dean Bullard was elected historian for the New South River Baptist Association in 1997.

Several churches participated in taking snacks and complete meals to the staff at the association office each day during the week of Prayer for Associational Missions to show their appreciation to the staff. Clement Baptist Church honored

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[12]Aug. 1997 "The Communicator" by Jessica Griffin

the staff with a meal following the morning Worship service on Sunday April 20, 1997.

International Day was set for August 30, 1997 at the Charlie Rose Center and each church was asked to bring 2 or 3 desserts. Each language group prepared food from their native country. There was entertainment from the different groups most of the groups were dressed in their native dress.

Mr. Ronnie Reynolds has been called as manager of the Beatitude House.

The churches of New South River Baptist Association contributed recipes, about 600 of them, and they were organized in the different categories in a book and sent to the printers. The cookbook was used as a ministry for the women as well as the men in the association. The theme for the cookbook was "Multi-Cultural Cook Book" "The World at Our Doorsteps". The hard work and the wonderful recipes were enjoyed by all that participated. Mrs. Christine Vinson of Beaver Dam Baptist Church did the art work for the cookbook. Mrs. Vinson was presented a certificate of appreciation at the annual session. Jessica Griffin was also thanked for her help in collecting, typing, and proof reading the recipes.

Mr. Kit Carson spoke on Brotherhood. He mentioned he would like for every church to put together a "Handyman Ministry". The Brotherhood all over the state group together and help where there is a disaster such as with Hurricane Fran. The Brotherhood of New South River Baptist Association and all over North Carolina came to help when Immanuel Baptist Church in our Association was so badly damaged by Hurricane Fran.

Dr. Gault presented a video "The World At Our Doorsteps" at the Annual Meeting. The presentation covered work by New South River Baptist Association at home and abroad. Mr. Jim Scales gave a memorial for the ones that had passed from this life. He said that 239 deaths had occurred in the 68 churches that reported. He read a poem and some scripture and led in paying tribute to those who had passed away. He led in prayer of thanksgiving for their contribution to the Lord's work.

Tuesday Angelo Scheepers of South Africa delivered the message at the evening session at LaGrange Park. He brought a very challenging message from the book of John 20:19-23. At the end of his message he asked all to stand and to make a fresh commitment to the Lord and to missions. October 23, 1997 at the annual meeting at Mt. Elam Baptist Church the Angelo Scheepers presented the message; he spoke from Joshua 3 and on "Doing Teamwork in Achieving the Extraordinary".

Ministers ordained during this year were Kenny Jones - Atonement, Sherill Boykin -Faymont, and Phillip S. Addison - Trinity.

Hurricane Fran destroyed Godwin Baptist Church September 5, 1996. Mt. Pisgah dedicated the new fellowship hall April 12. Union Grove Baptist

Church ordained Robert New, Porter Stanley, Jr. and J. E. Davis as deacons.

The 74th annual session of the New South River Baptist Association was held at Spring Lake Baptist Church October 20, 1998 and at Beaver Dam Baptist Church October 22, 1998.

The executive committee met at Peters Creek Baptist Church January 20, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. Thurman Smith stated that the association had a surplus of over $47,000.00 known as an overage and unspent funds at that time. Thurman said that the finances of the association were in good condition, he made three recommendations:

1-The association contributed $50.00 per month for a part-time employee to the Annuity Board - this was to help with his retirement in years to come, after some discussion the motion passed.

2-The association contribute $50.00 per month for Rev. Ronnie Nichols, pastor at Cool Springs Baptist Church, to use for annuity. After some discussion this was passed.

3- That $10,000.00 be appropriated to sponsor a trip to South Africa for Dr. Gault and Bobby Dobbs and to purchase video equipment to be used by them to film points of interest of the mission trip. The video will be returned to the association office for the churches to use to promote mission work in South Africa. The equipment will be the property of New South River Baptist Association and remain in the office for the churches to use. The motion was passed after a time of discussion.

The association evangelism conference was held at Grace Baptist Church September 14 & 15, 1998. Robert Winecoff presented the music and the speakers were Dr. Mark Corts and Rev. Herb Reavis.

Ronald Long stated that some volunteers from New South River Baptist Association and from Robeson Association were participating in a mission trip to Brazil. Mitchell Shields became church development missionary associate. He was to work 20 hours per week and his pay would be adjusted accordingly.

The executive committee Meeting met at Trinity Baptist Church May 19, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. A motion was made to have a World Missions Conference in the fall of 2000. This motion was carried. David Weeks was elected to be the coordinator for the World Missions Conference. David Holloway was elected to replace Ronald Long, who moved to Lumberton, as coordinator for the South Africa Partnership.

There was a committee elected to study the needs of the association. Some of the concerns were do we need an association, do we need to relocate the office, if not do we need to remodel the present office, etc.

The WMU gives a scholarship each year of $ 500.00 to a student to help with their education. In 1998 it was shared by Amber Dees and Rebecca Weeks. Amber, who was attending UNC Wilmington, is a member at Clement Baptist

Church. Rebecca Weeks who was attending Methodist College is a member at Massey Hill Baptist Church.

High winds and heavy rain damaged the Beatitude House, located on North Main Street in Spring Lake. The repair took several weeks; the Beatitude House was repaired and reopened to witness as usual. The churches in the New South River Baptist Association contribute monthly to the food pantry. The churches contributed "food baskets" at Thanksgiving and Christmas so that families could have proper food for these holidays.

Pictured above: The Beatitude House Spring Lake.

Pictured above is one of the two hand operated block making machines provided by New South River Baptist Association for the church in Western Province Baptist Association in South Africa. These 2 machines can produce 300 blocks per day. It usually takes two weeks to produce enough blocks to build a church.

Shown below is a picture of the Squatter Town Baptist Church where Dr. Gault preached his last sermon while in South Africa. This was a "pasteboard" building for a church. Dr. Gault said the foundation has already been dug to replace this present building with a permanent masonry block building.

A short video was prepared by Dr. Gault and Bobby Dobbs while they were in South Africa. The video is available at New South River Baptist Church in the media center. The churches are invited to use this video to see the many ways there are to witness to the people in South Africa.

"Building A Bridge" - New South River Baptist Association Disaster Recovery Co-ordinator for Region 3, Kit Carson from Stedman Baptist Church and Dean Clodfelter from Lebanon Baptist Church are pictured above with a group of Baptist Men *Building a Bridge* in Spruce Pine, North Carolina. This team replaced 4 bridges that were destroyed by flood.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARIES

Rev. Waldo Dwight Early May 1946

Applicant for B.A. Degree
Raleigh, North Carolina
Age 22, Weight 148, Height 5ft. 7 ins.
"Waldi" is known on the campus as the boy who has the secret of keeping cheerful. He continually wears a smile. The spots on the knees of his trousers prove to be the clue to his secret. Nor does Waldo try to keep it a secret. Visit his little church in suburb of Raleigh and he will tell you his joy. But never does Waldo smile as he does when he just returned from Richmond. We wonder why? The candle burns late in Waldo's room and many have seen his light long before day. Perhaps he does not make the highest marks, but we know he does his best.[13]

Rev. Walton B. Guthrie October 1947 – July 1949

"Dear Fellow Baptists:
In behalf of the Executive Board I am happy to introduce Brother Walton B. Guthrie whose likeness I have imprinted on this page. He received the unanimous vote of our Board to come to us as Field Secretary I have had the opportunity to observe his work as a missionary and pastor. His is excellent. We commend Brother

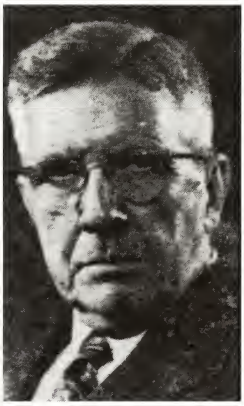
[13]The 1927 year book for Wake Forest University, The Howler, pg. 52

Guthrie to our New South River Churches in the belief that he will be found ready and prepared to render faithful and efficient service whenever you call upon him. Rev. Guthrie was licensed to preach at age 16. His training was received at Elon College and at Wake Forest."[14]

Rev. J. V. Watterson September 1949 – 1950

A native of Makatoka, North Carolina, Rev. Watterson received his education in the Bladenboro public schools, Campbell College, Wake Forest University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.[15]

Rev. Thomas E. Walters 1951-June 1957



Rev. Walters – a native of Madison, NC; graduate of Mars Hill College, Wake Forest College, and the Southern Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky; teacher, writer, and pastor of Baptist Churches in many parts of North Carolina. For six years he worked tirelessly and unceasingly to improve the work of the churches of New South River Baptist Association. The 1957 minutes book of New South River Baptist Association were dedicated to Rev. Walters. Rev. Walters was killed on Friday, Nov. 29, 1957, when he was struck by a car near his home in Ridgecrest.[16]

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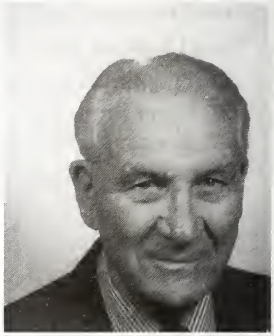
[14]The Moderator's Message, by Mr. Louis S. Gaines, October 10, 1947
[15]The Kannapolis Independent
[16]The 34th annual session minute book New South River Baptist Association

Rev. Clyde L. Davis – July 1957-August 31, 1959



Rev. Clyde Davis attended Mississippi College and is a graduate of Southeastern Theological Seminary. He served as director of The Men's Department of the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.[17]

Rev. E. C. Watson, Jr. 1959 – February 1963

Rev. Watson – a native of Lumberton, graduated from Wake Forest College, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. He did additional work at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia; Southern Baptist Seminary, Wake Forest; and N.C. Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem.[18]

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[17]Sampson Independent - Clinton - August 2, 1985
[18]Pender Chronicle - Burgaw - November 11, 1970

Rev. Charles Aurenus Stevens – March 1, 1963-May 24, 1991

Rev. Charles Stevens was born in Smithfield, N.C. In 1940 he graduated from Smithfield High School. He was a graduate of both Wake Forest and Southeastern Seminary in 1957. He was ordained in the Ministry by the First Baptist Church in Smithfield in 1949. In 1949 – 1950 he pastored two churches in the Beulah Association. He left East Side Baptist Church, Reidsville, N.C. where he was pastor from 1954-1957 to become pastor at Bonnie Doone Baptist Church where he served until 1963. Charles A. Stevens accepted the call as Superintendent of Missions for the New South River Baptist Association in 1963. Rev. Stevens died tragically at the age of sixty-seven (67) as a result of a DUI dri ver just six weeks after he retired as Executive Director of New South River Baptist Association after twenty-eight (28) years of faithful, dedicated service.[19]

Dr. Benjamin S. Gault, Jr.

Dr. Gault was born in Fountain Inn, South Carolina. He graduated from Fountain Inn High School. Dr. Gault served in the US Air Force for four years. He graduated from North Greenville Junior College, Tigerville, S.C., from Furman University in Greenville, S.C., received the B.D. degree from Wake Forest Baptist Theological Seminary and has a Master of Divinity degree. Dr. Gault completed a pastoral care course at Dorthea Dix State Hospital in Raleigh, N.C., completed a course in pastoral counseling at Piedmont Technical College, Roxboro, N.C., and helped organize and completed a course in Pastoral Care from the North Carolina Baptist Hospital School of Pastoral Care. Dr. Gault enrolled in and completed the requirements for the Doctor of Ministry degree at Luther Rice International Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla. Dr. Gault was pastor of Cedar Grove

[19]1991 minutes book New South River Baptist Association

Baptist Church, Wilson, N.C., pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, Fayetteville, N.C., pastor of Clement Baptist Church near Roxboro, N.C. and pastor of Ogden Baptist Church at Wilmington, N.C. In 1985 he became Director of Missions for the Pee Dee Baptist Association for 6 1/2 years. September 1, 1991 he became Director of Missions for the New South River Baptist Association in Fayetteville, N.C.[20]

April 17, 1999 a celebration of the *Seventy-fifth* anniversary of New South River Baptist Association was held at Autryville Baptist Church from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Everyone was invited and lunch was served on the grounds. Remember now, Autryville Baptist Church was where the two associations met, in a joint meeting, to determine a name and to settle the debts of the two associations. There was a brief drama of what took place at this meeting.

Drama For NSRBA 75th Celebration

Moderator: Gentlemen, (bangs gavel) I call this joint meeting of the Cumberland and the South River Associations back in session. I trust you had a good lunch break and are ready to get back to the business at hand. We have a number of issues that are important that we have to deal with before we can unite our two associations...there is the issue of the debts of each association we have to deal with. Who is going to pay off the debts? And we still have before us the issue of a name for the new association. After all the discussion this morning, we still have not come to a consensus yet.

Delegate # 1: Brother moderator...

Moderator: The chair recognizes Brother Jones of Sampson County.

Delegate # 1: Delegates, this matter of a name for our new association is of grave importance. This name will be with us for many years and

[20]Resume of Dr. Benjamin S. Gault, Jr. - New South River Baptist Association

will be what our churches will be known by and associated with for many generations to come. The churches of the South River Association wish to offer the name of South River Association to this new association. Since the South River here in Autryville has been the dividing line between our two groups, we feel it is an appropriate name.

Delegate # 2: Brother moderator

Moderator: Chair recognizes Brother Smith of Cumberland Association.

Delegate # 2: We appreciate the offer of the brethren from Sampson County concerning the offer of South River as the name of our new group. I feel the new association needs to have a name that is different from either name of the two associations. Years ago, the association before Cumberland was called Cedar Creek Association, and I feel that would be a good choice for our new name.

Delegate # 1: Brother Smith, the Cedar Creek name does not have any meaning for our Sampson County churches…many of them on the other side of our association don't even know about Cedar Creek, and have never been there!

Delegate # 2: I still think Cedar Creek Association is a good suggestion!

Delegate # 3: Brother moderator…

Moderator: The chair recognizes Brother Turner of Fayetteville…

Delegate # 3: Since the Cumberland Association has the largest number of churches and represents the most brethren between the two associations, I feel the new name ought to reflect this, such as the Cape Fear Association. The Cape Fear River is associated with our region would make a good name for our new group.

Delegate # 1: Brother Turner, with all due respect, the Cape Fear River was not the dividing line between our associations, the South River always has been. And there are churches east of the Cape Fear that are in the Cumberland Association, Stedman Church, Magnolia, Macedonia…I don't think Cape Fear represents us all.

Delegate # 2: Well, I don't think South River represents us all as well! That sounds like the Cumberland Association was just taken over by the South River Association, and after all, we are larger and have more members to represent.

Delegate # 1: The South River Association voted last fall to offer the name of South River to the new association, since the South River is the dividing line between the two associations but we offer this at the pleasure of the brethren. If this does not give satisfaction to the churches, then we are willing to work toward another designa-

tion.

Delegate #3: I appreciate that Brother Jones, because I don't think South River will be acceptable among the Cumberland brethren.

Moderator: Delegates, we need to come to a consensus here. If we cannot decide on a name, then how can we ever join together and work in unity for the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Delegate # 5: Brother Moderator, we still have the issue of the debts of each association that must be dealt with before we can come together!

Moderator: Thank you for reminding us, brother. We will deal with that if we can ever agree on a name!

Delegate #4: Brother moderator:

Moderator: The chair recognizes Brother Joel Johnson of Cedar Creek.

Delegate #4: We don't seem to be making any more progress on this matter than we did prior to our lunch. But while I was enjoying my meal, I had the pleasure of sitting with Brother Buckner Bullock of Autryville. Brother Bullock is a deacon of the Autryville Church, and he made a suggestion as the name of the new association which I believe is a good and wise suggestion. Since the South River is the dividing line between the two existing associations, and since the two old associations are working to come together and form something new of the old, I move that the name of the new association be the New South River Baptist Assoc..

Moderator: We have a motion on the floor to call the new association the New South River Baptist Association. Do I hear a second to that motion.

Delegate #3: I'll second that motion, Brother Turner of Fayetteville.

Moderator: We have a motion and a second...is there any discussion. (the delegates take a moment to whisper discussions among themselves, begin to nod and show agreement to the motion)

Delegate #1: Brother moderator, the South River Association voted to recommend the South River name to the new association, but in light of this motion to name our group The New South River Association, I think it is a wonderful idea and I am wholeheartedly for it!

Delegate #2: Brother moderator, I wish to rise in support of this motion. I feel it represents the spirit of the heritage of the old associations joining in unity to build a new association and I am sure the Cumberland Baptists will be happy with the new name.

Delegate #5: Brother moderator, I would like to add to this motion the retirement of the debts of the two associations be done by offerings

received at the Union meetings with money divided between the two old associations until the debts are paid. (several seconds, no discussion)

Moderator: Seeing no further discussion, the motion is to call the new association The New South River Baptist Association. The vote will be taken by a roll call of the Delegates. The recording secretary will call the roll.

Clerk: (Clerk calls the name of the churches, list of charter churches at front of book, one delegate from that church rises, gives the church name, and votes yes. Following the vote, the clerk rises and gives the results of the vote.)

Clerk: Brother moderator, the churches have voted unanimously. The new association shall be called The New South River Baptist Association. (amens, and general approval by the delegates)

Moderator: Let us take time to thank the Lord for leading us to work together in unity for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.
(moderator prays, and the drama ends with the prayer)[21]

The characters in the drama were:

Moderator – Rev. Randy White, Moderator of The New South River Baptist Association, and pastor at Trinity Baptist Church.

Delegate #1 - Rev. John Cuthill pastor at First United Baptist Church.

Delegate #2 - Rev. Dennis McDonald pastor at Piney Green Baptist Church.

Delegate #3 - Rev. Pat Wood pastor at Tabernacle Baptist Church

Delegate #4 - Rev. James Mitchell Shields, Church Development Coordinator New South River Baptist Association.

Delegate #5 - Mr. Wayne Boles member at Autryville Baptist Church

Clerk - Rev. Richard Edwards interm pastor Walstone Memorial Baptist Church.

Music was furnished by Autryville Baptist Church Choir, "One In Spirit" (Ensemble of Autryville Baptist Church), and New South River Baptist Association Pastor's Ensemble. Speakers for the Celebration were: Bobby Stafford, Senior Consultant for Regional Resources and Associational Development Strategic Initiatives and Planning Baptist State Convention of North Carolina;

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[21]Drama written by Rev. Andy Pettigrew, pastor of Autryville Baptist Church

Dr. Jim Royston, Executive Director-Treasurer Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; and Dr. Benjamin S. Gault, Jr., Executive Director New South River Baptist Association. Willa Dean Bullard, Historian New South River Baptist Association, was presented a certificate from the Southern Baptist Historical Society for New South River Baptist Association. The staff was also recognized at this celebration.

This concludes the first 75 years of work for our Lord and Savior, but the work continues through New South River Baptist Association of Churches.

Statistics For New South River Baptist Association

1924	1974	1998
50 churches	77 churches	95 churches
5,920 membership	28,650 membership	31,794 membership
$171.16 total funds	$90,000.00 operating budget	$376,928.00 budget

"Remembering the past - looking to the future".

There are many possibilities in the future of New South River Baptist Association. In the near future New South River Baptist Association is attempting:

1 - The Adult Day Care: The purpose of an Adult Day Care Service is to provide care for adults who need custodial care on a daily basis. The service will be a ministry of the New South River Baptist Association of Churches, Inc., and operated as a Christian Center, advocating Christian values and a Christian lifestyle.

2 - Beatitude House /Roseboro: The Beatitude House will be located in Roseboro in Sampson County. The purpose of the Beatitude House will be to minister to those in need, to witness to and encourage people who are

served by this ministry.

3 - Expand outreach to other language groups and English speaking people. The goal is to have a group for every different language group represented in Sampson, Cumberland and Hoke Counties. There are 79 different language groups in the associational area.

4 - Getting every church member to be personally involved in some hands on mission ministry each year.

5 - Hopefully a service of profiling each church's past 5 year records so that each church can make plans based on past statistics.

6 - Develop a mission team to go to Southern Honduras to build 2 houses for people where their homes were destroyed by Hurricane Mitch.

7 - Ways to help local churches develop local ministry. A Handy Man Ministry, Pediatrics at a hospital, nursing homes in the associational area, Mission trips and many more.

8 – During the year 2000 the association will emphasize Bible Study through Sunday School.

9 – Have an On Missions Celebration.

10 – All of these activities will be in addition to developing Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Music, Youth Activities and Evangelism.

11 – To focus on the phrase – "how do you spell missions - (p-e-o-p-l-e-) Always minister to help people become who they were born and created to be as individuals.

These are "dreams" or "possibilities" for the future of New South River Baptist Association only if they are in the will of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please pray for these "dreams" or "possibilities" in your daily prayers.